MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

Reporting on the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, signed on behalf of Israel by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Jerusalem radio summarized the six articles of the agreement as well as the additional joint statement by the U.S. and Israeli defense ministers. The articles include commitments to stage joint military exercises and establish a joint coordinating council and also note that abrogation of the agreement by either party must be announced 6 months in advance. According to the addendum, both sides will aid each other against threats to the safety of the region by the Soviet Union and by forces under its control.

In an interview with the radio, Sharon said the agreement provides the basis for a "different set of relationships with the United States," adding that it places Israel on a new level and rank. Asserting that the agreement is broad and satisfies most of Israel's requirements, Sharon noted that it includes the question of Israeli exports, deals with the issue of reciprocity and covers Soviet threats to the Middle East. In remarks broadcast during another radio report, Deputy Prime Minister Simha Erlich stressed that the agreement does not set Israel against the Soviet Union but rather aims to guarantee Israel's existence and security. It is an act of defense rather than one of offense, he said. According to the same report, Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office said he welcomed the memorandum of understanding as a move that will strengthen Israel's security and political status. However, in an interview with the radio, Alignment MK Yitzhaq Rabin deplored the reference in the agreement to the Soviet Union as an enemy in a military context, asserting that it would be a serious mistake for Israel to commit itself to activating the IDF in missions that do not concern the immediate defense of the country.

Egypt

MENA reported that after a 4-hour session, the Supreme Military Court decided to adjourn the case on the assassination of late President Anwar as-Sadat until 5 December, when a session will be held in camera to safeguard military secrets. The 24 defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges against them, MENA said, and while Lt Khalid al-Islambuli confessed to killing As-Sadat, he denied killing other persons on the platform during the military parade. MENA also noted that the court decided to reject defense requests to hear the testimonies of a number of officials and religious and political personalities.

According to AFP, Lieutenant al-Islambuli said he was proud to have killed As-Sadat and claimed that Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah "knows that if I had wanted to kill him, I could have done so."

Syria

According to AFP, TISHRIN accused the Muslim Brotherhood of timing the 29 November explosion in Damascus to coincide with the arrival in the Middle East of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib in an attempt to force Syria to "capitulate to American-Zionist plan." A TISHRIN commentary on the bombing, as reported by Damascus radio, did not mention the Habib mission but accused the Muslim Brotherhood of being inspired by its "masters" in Tel Aviv and Washington and of trying to make Syria change its position and deviate from the path it is taking. Damascus radio also reported that during a telephone conversation with Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Hafiz al-Asad said the Syrian people are determined to pursue the Muslim Brotherhood and destroy its bases abroad.

While the Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that the casualty figures resulting from the explosion have risen to 100 dead and about 300 wounded, AFP said the official toll remains 64 dead and 135 wounded.

Lebanon

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Morris Draper met with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, Phalangist leaders Pierre and Bashir al-Jumayyil and Lebanese National Movement leader Walid Junblatt, Beirut radio reported. The radio also broadcast recorded remarks by Prime Minister al-Wazzan after his meeting with Habib and Draper in which he said Habib has not brought a specific plan for discussion. Al-Wazzan added that he told Habib that Lebanon is is determined to implement the resolution on southern Lebanon passed by the recent Arab League summit conference in Fes.

PDRY-YAR

According to Aden radio, YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived on a visit to the PDRY and told journalists that he would be discussing Yemeni unity with PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The radio later reported that during their first round of talks the PDRY leader stressed the importance of continuing efforts to unite the two Yemens. Another Aden radio report quoted 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as stating that the YAR "will not hesitate" to achieve unity on the agreed bases.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi Armed Forces communique transmitted by INA claimed that Iraqi forces launched a large-scale counterattack against "retreating" Iranian troops in the Susangerd region. It asserted that large losses had been inflicted on the Iranians. On the other hand, an Iranian Joint Staff communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed that fighting was continuing in the region as Iranian forces consolidated their positions. PARS reported that the Iranian offensive spread to Khuninshahr, where Iranian forces killed 23 Iraqis in the occupied sector. PARS also carried a war information headquarters invitation to foreign journalists to visit the Susangerd-Bostan region to verify Iranian claims that 250 square km have been recaptured.

Iran

Newspapers Banned -- The Tudeh Party newspaper PAYAM-E MARDOM was banned for violation of Iranian press laws, PARS reported. It said the paper had violated the provisions forbidding propaganda on behalf of a superpower of "libel" against national policy and had failed to publicly identify its publisher. The PARS report also said the newspaper ARASH was banned for insulting Islam.

Security Situation -- Citing Iranian television, AFP reported that 36 leftist opposition members were executed in Tehran, Gonabad and Maragheh. It did not say when the executions took place. Tehran radio reported the arrest of two Mojahedin-e Khalq members in Shahriar, while Ahvaz radio said some members of the Peykar organization as well as a Mojahedin-e Khalq member were arrested in Ahvaz.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT RECEIVES SOLIDARITY CABLE FROM BREZHNEV

JN281642 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1535 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text of cable to Abu 'Ammar, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, from Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU, on the occasion of international solidarity day with the Palestinian people -- date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the International Solidarity Day With the Palestinian People, I send you, Comrade 'Arafat, and the PLO Executive Committee and all the Palestinian people, in my name and on behalf of the Soviet peoples, heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

The Palestinian Arab people, together with all the Arab and world progressive states, are struggling with steadfastness and courage against the Israeli aggression and the imperialist intrigues. They are also firmly resisting the policy of unilateral bargains and the U.S. and Israeli schemes, which have an aggressive military nature, and are continuously struggling for the attainment of a comprehensive and just solution in the Middle East. The crux of this solution is the issue of the Palestinian Arab people's resoration of their national legitimate rights, headed by their right to repatriation, self-determination and establishment of their independent state. The full support for these just demands and the recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative are the criteria by which the seriousness of the intentions of those declaring their support for a just peace in the Middle East is judged.

The Soviet Union once again declares its sympathy with and continuous support for the Palestinian people's just cause. We note with satisfaction the increasing growth of the worldwide good reputation of the PLO, the trusted vanguard of the Palestinian people in their just legitimate struggle for their national rights.

I wish you, Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, and wish your comrades in arms and all the Palestinian people, further successes in your struggle for national independence and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state as well as your struggle for freedom and a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

[Signed] Leonid Brezhnev

'Arafat Replies

JN301807 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a cable of thanks in reply to the message of solidarity sent by Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the Supreme Soviet on the occasion of the International Day for Solidarity With the Palestinian People. Following is the text of the cable:

Dear Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, revolutionary greetings. I have received with great pride your esteemed message on the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People. I send you my heartfelt gratitude in my own name, on behalf of my comrades in the PLO Executive Committee and in the name of the Palestinian people for the noble feelings embodied in your message and for your sincere sentiments of friendship and solidarity toward our people and their just struggle. Our Palestinian people and their revolutionary heroes look upon the great Soviet Union as the honest and trustworthy master [as-sayyid] of all peoples that struggle for their freedom and for self-determination. Our Palestinian people record, with love and gratitude for the friendly people, party and leadership of the Soviet Union, its honest stand which has always supported the just struggle of our people for the realization of their inalienable national rights -- the rights of return, self-determination and establishment of their independent Palestinian state.

Allow me dear comrade to express to you with all sincerity our people and revolution's pride in the growing relations of struggle which emanates from the basis of joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism and their fiendish policy against the peoples of the world and their aspirations. The signs of this imperialist and Zionist policy clearly appear in our region where the United States is sponsoring the futile adventure of separate solutions, forming hostile military alliances and increasing its military presence in order to impose its hegemony on our region, people and destiny.

The Palestinian people are proud of occupying, under the PLO, an advanced position of confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist alliance and its political and military adventures. They are also proud to have with them at this position the great and friendly Soviet Union, which is true to our Palestinian people and a friend to all the peoples of the world which fight for freedom.

On the day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people, I send to you, dear comrade, to the peoples of the friendly Soviet Union and to the Soviet Communist Party my heartfelt gratitude for your esteemed message, wish you good health and hope for more progress in our relations of struggle and more progress and glory to the friendly Soviet people under your wise leadership.

It is a revolution until victory.

'ARAFAT SENDS COMMEMORATIVE MESSAGE TO UN

JN291952 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] Brothers, the following is the message that brother leader 'Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sent to the UN General Assembly on the occasion of the International Day in Solidarity With the Palestinian People:

Mr President, Members: It gives me pleasure to address this message to your esteemed assembly on the occasion of 29 November, the date set by the UN General Assembly as the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian people and on which there will be annual celebrations until the achievement of the Palestinian People's aspirations for the full exercise of their national inalienable rights, including the right to return to autonomy and to the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their Palestinian national soil.

It has become evident, Mr President, that the UN General Assembly's celebration of this international day every year goes beyond the mere support for the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to the participation in the struggle for the achievement of these rights. Thus, we may consider the commitment of the international organization to continue celebrating this day as one of the manifestations and important evidence that the Palestinian people's just cause has become one of the most prominent causes of the United Nations and that the championing of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights has become a wish dear to the peoples in the world who will pursue action through this great institution to achieve and legalize them. This is what has made our Palestinian people and our Arab nation regain confidence in this international organization in wake of their long reservations as a result of the injustice and negligence from which the Palestinian cause has suffered in the past and as a result of the Palestinian people's tribulations, dispersion, deprivation, pains and injustice inflicted on them.

Mr President, Members: The experience that followed World War II, and more specifically in wake of the establishment of the United Nations, has proved that if this international organization falls under the influence of some countries, it cannot become the conscience of humanity and the expression of the people's will and aspirations for peace, justice, freedom, independence and the protection of human rights.

This will make it lose the role that it is supposed to assume in our world which is full of troubles caused by oppression and the flouting of rights. Experience has also proved that this international organization can assume a prominent international role in accordance with the provisions of its charter and its international declaration of human rights if it expresses the will of the great majority of the peoples in the world.

One cay say that in recent years the United Nations has begun to regain its voice which could be heart by the militant peoples and respected by mankind. This will enable our Palestinian people to look with optimism to all the sessions of the UN General Assembly and to hope that the United Nations will play a more important role in international life in general and more particularly in the settlement of our just cause.

Mr President, I find it appropriate to convey to you our people's reservations on the veto system which the United States is exploiting in the worst manner in the UN Security Council against the cause of our people and their inalienable rights. Instead of using the veto for entrenching international will and serving just causes, the veto has become, in the hands of the U.S. representative, a tool for obstructing any positive resolution that will achieve just peace in the Middle East. The veto has become a means for encouraging the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon, an independent and sovereign state.

The entire world has seen the U.S. delegate use the veto or threaten to use it whenever a draft resolution is submitted to the UN Security Council confirming the Palestinian people's rights -- as frequently expressed by the UN General Assembly -- or calling for ending Israeli raids on Palestinian camps, Lebanese villages and Palestinian and Lebanese residential areas. Hundreds of people are victims of these raids every time. The most recent of these were the savage raids mounted on southern Lebanon and Beirut in July, killing or wounding thousands. Instead of issuing firm resolutions through the security council condemning these acts of aggression and taking practical measures to impose international will on Israel, the United States insists on flouting UN recommendations and Security Council resolutions.

Therefore, I would like to ask the American people, who I respect and appreciate, to raise their voice against their government's misuse of the veto against our people and cause and in support of aggression and the continuation of occupation.

Mr President: Last year, the world witnessed several serious negative phenomena which threaten its security and prosperity. World tension escalated both in relations between te two superpowers and in the escalation of the nuclear and conventional arms race. Acts of aggression against oppressed peoples increased, thus increasing the hostbeds in the world. The situation in our region and what the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples were subjected to are good examples of this.

Inflation, stagnation and unemployment rose worldwide, driving all workers, peasants, intellectuals, professionals and average wage earners to groan under the yoke of the increasing cost of living. At this juncture, I would note Mr (Soma's) report at the recent FAO meeting which said that more than 500 million human beings are threatened with starvation. Furthermore, there is a horrible worldwide spreading of several deviations and manifestation of degeneration such as crime, dispersal and drug addiction.

This means that this UN body, which is the highest representative body of peoples, must meet the challenges which are threatening humanity and future generations, challenges which are headed by the danger of outbreak of a world war, the danger of exhausting human efforts for the harmful and dangerous arms race, the danger of poisoning the international situation and the danger of deviation and moral corruption.

Mr President, we in the PLO considered the mere convocation of the Cancun conference, during which several leaders representing the North and South countries met, a positive and important event, since nothing is more dangerous than estrangement and lack of dialogue among the North and South countries. Such a state of affairs threatens the world with dire consequences. The countries of the South, which were colonies in the recent past, and the countries of the North, which were mostly colonizers, continue to be affected by the past. The rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. The gap separating highly developed countries and developing countries is widening instead of narrowing. Undoubtedly, one of the major causes, if not the only cause, for this situation is due to the continuation of the world political and economic system inherited from the age of colonization and colonies. This system continues to be unjust to the peoples of the Third World, preventing them from developing quickly. Therefore, it behooves the United Nations to continue its efforts and quest to reach a new world economic and political system, thus contributing to narrowing the gap between the North and the South, consolidating world peace and security, saving millions of people from starvation or near starvation and formulating bases for sound and correct relations among nations.

Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar's message adds: During their past year of occupation, the Palestinian people have suffered from more acts of oppression, torture and genocide. As a result, hundreds of new cases have accumulated in which the Israeli occupation forces have violated the international human rights declaration. Added to these acts were the continued expropriation of territories and private and public property, construction of new settlements and seizure of Palestinian underground resources. Furthermore, there was no end to the series of procedures whose purpose was to deport the Palestinians and to the assiduous Judaization of the occupied territories, particularly Jeursalem. Here I would like to draw the attention of the whole world, particularly the Christian and Muslim worlds, to the threats posed by such acts as the violation of the sanctity of the holy sites, the assiduous endeavors to change the characteristics of the historical city of Jerusalem, divest it of its Arab character and Judaize it. On the one hand there was an activation of the excavations under the walls of Al-Aqsa Mosque, which was threatened by collapse. This is considered a blatant and intentional act of challenge to the Muslim and Christian peoples alike, since the mere violation of one holy site -- irrespective of the religion or sect to which such a site may belong -- must be considered a violation of and possible threat to all the holy sites.

Needless to say, such Israeli procedures will evoke Arab, Islamic and international reactions, which may, in turn, threaten world peace.

I would like to state here that we in the Palestinian revolution will not stand silent on what is going on in Jerusalem -- whether with regard to the violation of holy sites, the Judaization of the holy city, or annexing it to Israel and considering it as its eternal capital -- since Judaization will transform both Christian and Islamic holy sites into mere archeological sites lacking the life which the devout Christians and Muslims disseminate around them.

This great historical city -- which is the pearl that has been preserved by the Palestinian people in the interest of the entire world -- must not be transformed into a jungle of military settlements and buildings which divest this holy city of its historical and spiritual character. There is only one truth in the world: One Jerusalem.

Thus, it was a result of this that your esteemed General Assembly issued resolutions in which you condemn the series of grave violations being carried out by the Zionist enemy against Jerusalem; denounce the continuous violations of holy sites; utterly reject changing Jerusalem's old character; and stress the need to preserve its true historical character.

During this year, the Israeli authorities went to extremes in challenging those recommendations and in their violations against the immortal city and its holy sites.

This year, I urge your General Assembly to include in its recommendation a request to the Security Council to adopt a decision stopping excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque and to pledge to implement this by all means should the Zionist authorities refuse to abide by it.

Mr President, esteemed members: The Palestinian issue is now being subjected to the gravest plot since the Israeli aggression in 1967: The autonomy plot, which was included in the Camp David accords. The Israeli leadership has created and is still creating the inevitable circumstances in an attempt to peddle and impose this plot. Indeed, it is concocting a distorted civilian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which is based on the trick of replacing the occupation's military garb with a civil one and giving the name of headquarters of the civil administrator to the headquarters of the military governor. This was comprehensively reflected by the so-called plan of Sharon -- the Israeli enemy's defense minister -- which was approved by the Israeli Government. Indeed, the enemy occupation is using all available means to implement this plan.

Perhaps it is obvious to all that the purpose of this new Israeli game is to disperse the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and to offer a solution in advance for the Palestinian issue, a solution which would go beyond self-administration -- whose purpose is to be an alternative to our people's national aspirations and their inalienable rights, including the right to return, determine their fate and establish their independent state on Palestinian national soil.

The futility of this plot and the impossibility of accepting it as an alternative to the inalienable Palestinian rights may be proven by the demonstrations of our people who took to the streets, expressing their firm rejection of all the dubious projects and facing the bullets of the occupation army with their bodies and with unarmed fists. They were armed only by the weapons of faith, determination and truth. They rose in a brave and comprehensive uprising which was witnessed by the whole world which has felt the genuine nature of the Palestinian people and the power of the struggle inherent in their sons and daughters. Our people have been shown to be adherent and committed to their inalienable rights and their sole legitimate representative the PLO. This induces us to look for the United Nations so that it may renew its full support for this heroic struggle and its denunciation and condemnation of the terror, repression, destruction, killing, deportation and plotting to which the Palestinian people are exposed especially since the occupation authorities are determined to implement its designs that are aimed at perpetuating the occupation by various means.

Allow me Mr President to take this occasion to draw the attention of your esteemed assembly to the fact that racist Israeli Zionist policies since 1967 have entered a new stage. The Israeli Government has decided to cease calling these territories as occupied or administered territories and to call them Judaea and Samaria. This reveals that these areas are now being exposed to the same measures of annexation and Judaization that have been imposed on occupied Jerusalem and to measures that are aimed at changing the military nature of occupation and making the illegal Israeli presence in the occupied territories a permanent presence. This is the logic of racist Zionism. It is a logic of leaderships who embrace and apply the theory of might is right and who even refuse to take notice of the principles and values of the peoples of the world such as the UN Charter and the world declaration of human rights.

Before ending this point, I would like to point out that none of this would have happened and Israel would have not taken such a course had it not been wholly dependent on U.S. support in the political, diplomatic, military and financial fields.

Otherwise, how can we explain the recent strategic agreement reached between the governments of the United States and Israel if it were not supporting all these measures and the subsequent racist and aggressive policies?

Mr President it is time that the UN General Assembly look at Israel's contempt of the UN resolutions and recommendations and of the will of the majority of UN members. I hope that the means of stopping all this contempt, indifference and challenge to the United Nations and the world will be considered. A firm stand by the United Nations has become necessary not only for the Palestinian people, Jerusalem and the just Palestinian cause, not only for defusing the war threat in the Middle East, but also for affirming the prestige of the United Nations and enabling it to make the world adopt its principles and the human rights declaration. It is neither reasonable nor acceptable that Israel continues to have the honor of being a member in the United Nations organization while it is contradicting by word and deed all these principles. Israel has rejected all the UN decisions and resolutions. When the United Nations accepted Israel as a member it made a condition on it to obey all the resolutions and recommendations that might be issued against it. Naturally this odd and serious situation would not have continued without the U.S. support which is given to the Israeli violations inside and outside the United Nations. Otherwise how can a small state which is dependent for its existence on external aid challenge to international will without aid from a superpower, namely, the United States of America?

Mr President: This year the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples faced a series of Israeli acts of aggression deep inside Lebanese territory within the sight and hearing of the whole world. The war of attrition in southern Lebanon continued and reached the extent of artillery and rocket shelling by land and sea. Sorties continued to reconnoiter and raid defenseless camps and villages inhabited by Lebanese and Palestinian civilians. All this was crowned with the war of aggression which broke out on 16 July 1981. This war was described by the world press as the sixth war or as the Israeli-Palestinian war because it was a real war with all the significance of this word. It raged for 14 days and the intensity of fire per minute was higher than any other rate of fire witnessed during previous wars in our region.

Although we exercised self-restraint for 48 hours after the all-out aggression in order to give ample time to the United Nations to stop this aggression before the situation aggravated further and threatened world peace, the arrogant Israeli leadership thought that this stand signified weakness. This prompted it to escalate its aggression, forcing us to deal two blows for one. This confused the ranks of the enemy and made the entire world express admiration for the courage of the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters and the firmness and justice of the Palestinian will to fight.

The tables were turned on the aggressor and the war was transformed into a Palestinian victory on the political and military levels despite the gravity of losses among the Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in Beirut where an entire quarter was destroyed over the heads of its inhabitants.

The United Nations, which exerted utmost efforts to reach a cease-fire, has testified to the PLO leadership's high sense of responsibility to the whole word, its ability to control the situation and its honesty in implementing the cease-fire agreement. At this juncture, however, I would like to warn against the repetition of such an aggression against Beirut. Next time, it will not be easy to reach a cease-fire. The Palestinian people's patience and tolerance have limits. They cannot lick their wounds and remain patient for long. They cannot alone shoulder the international responsibility.

If it is natural for the Zionist entity to lack any sense of international responsibility toward the world and its peoples, it is unnatural for the U.S. Government to continue to act irresponsibly, particularly concerning the Palestinian people, giving the Israeli Army the green light to continue to occupy Jerusalem and Palestinian and other Arab land and to continue the war of annihilation against the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, through all-out attacks, raids, special operations and the war of explosives and assassination. Such a state of affairs cannot continue. If it does, the conflict will be taken to another new stage and nobody can tell what its consequences will be or predict the dangers that might threaten the world due to it. I hold the U.S. Government fully responsible in this regard.

Mr President: Allow me through this esteemed international body to draw the attention of the world in general and of the U.S. people in particular to the U.S. Government's request from the PLO in return for recognizing it and talking to it; namely, advance recognition of Israel's right to exist. This is another form of persistent disavowal of the Palestinian people's rights and continued irresponsible conduct in contradiction of international norms, usage and principles.

Our people are not asking for anything to which they are not entitled. They are begging for charity from anybody and refuses to be humiliated with advance conditions for being recognized. Either they are a people in the real sense of the word, thus having inalienable rights, including the right to be recognized and their legitimate representative to be recognized, or they are not a people. If they are not a real people, advance conditions do not provide them with rights. If they are a people with full rights, advance conditions diminishes their inalienable rights, thus constituting an unacceptable encroachment. The fact that the Palestinian people are a people with inalienable rights was confirmed by the United Nations and officially recognized by the majority of world states. In this respect, it is sufficient to recall that the friendly Soviet Union has fully recognized the PLO on the diplomatic level, exactly as states are recognized. The nonaligned states, the African bloc countries and the organization of Islamic states has recognized not only the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people but also of the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

I must proudly mention the diplomatic recognition given a month ago by Greece to the PLO. Why do people want to put humiliating terms before us in order to talk with us? I declare here and now that the Palestinian people refuse to talk with anybody who places any preconditions for talks. Placing preconditions for talks with Palestinian people means refusing to recognize the Palestinians or the PLO. This is an encroachment on their rights and an insult which cannot be allowed. We have been uprooted from our homeland. Our rights and land have been usurped. We have been exposed to deportation and annihilation. However, we did not surrender in the worst conditions and circumstances. We were patient, we resisted and struggled. We did not yield our rights or abandon our honor. We took up arms when we found all the ways closed before us. Then the world conscience awakened to support us and our just cause became known, until the PLO became an integral part of the international will and the world international diplomacy. The Palestinian people is now an equal among equals in the world. How can the U.S. administration after all this place conditions on the PLO in order to recognize it and talk with it? I reject wholly and categorically the imposition of preconditions on us and I consider this a violation of the international rules and conventions. I also consider this a continued submission before the Israeli blackmail which has imposed this condition on the United States in exchange for a political bargain which shows the triviality of imposing this precondition on our people. Either the U.S. administration will muster enough courage to get rid of the Israeli blackmail represented by the promise which was taken through unjust means, or a state of estrangement will remain between us for ever.

Here I must say that the statements made by three U.S.-presidents -- Ford, Nixon and Carter -- and a number of their aides including Kissinger who gave Israel this promise will constitute a further vindication of my correct stand when I decisively reject such a precondition. I do this while (?knowing) that the U.S. people are moving toward unanimity to recognize the PLO. The U.S. administration itself will eventually find its acted too late, and it will find that it has neglected the interests of the U.S. people as a result of its unjust and unfair stands. Yes, it must know that it is dealing with a people who prefer to shed their blood and not undermine their dignity. It must know that it is dealing with the just Palestinian cause which has become the cause of most of the world states and peoples.

Some people might wonder how the PLO can take such stances and talk in such a tone when it represents a small group of people who do not exceed 4.5 million in a world where power and the powerful are the ruling force? Here I must mention that the reason for this is due to many causes such as the just Palestinian cause, the heroism of the people of Palestine, their fighters and their sacrifices. We are part of the Arab nation which cannot be belittled or taken lightly despite the disunity and weakness which sometimes appears among the Arabs. The Palestinian cause is their primary cause. It is the cause on which they unite. I am not exaggerating when I say that the Palestinian cause is the key to the Arab nation. Those who are not aware of this do not know anything about our nation. So long as I hold this key how can I help preventing the voice in defense of the just Arab cause from being a brave and loud voice? If we add to this the fact that the Palestinian cause is the key to the Islamic peoples -- and this will become apparent in the future more than ever before -- how can I prevent the voice in its defense from being a brave and loud voice: Add to all this the support given to the Palestinian cause by the United Nations, the socialist states and the nonaligned states and you will realize why PLO defends the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people with all sincerity, firmness and strength.

Thank You Mr President, thank you gentlemen for listening. I hope to express my profound appreciation for every voice which has been raised in support of our people and to express hope that those who have been blinded by prejudice and bias would listen to the voice of conscience and truth and to revise their position so that the United Nations might not be pushed toward a deadlock, thus exposing world peace and security to danger, increase tension in the Middle East, inflict on the Palestinian people more pains, sufferings and martyrs and render themselves more isolated internationally. Let the whole world be certain that our people who have been carrying the rifle in one hand and the olive branch in the other have transcended the stage where the intransigence of some states can remove the olive branch from their hands, and have entered the stage where they can plant this olive branch in Palestine and in Jerusalem.

VOP ANALYZES PHILIP HABIB'S MIDEAST TOUR

JN301718 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1520 GMT 30 Nov 81

[From "News Analysis" program]

[Text] U.S. Envoy Philip Habib's tour of the region is the fourth in 6 months. Habib is accompanied by Morris Draper, U.S. deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, who toured the region last September. Habib will concentrate on the Lebanese situation as pointed out by enemy Foreign Minister Shamir. The U.S. news agency UPI has given more details about the aims of Habib's current mission. The agency cited high-level U.S. sources as saying that Habib would bring with him the blueprint for a U.S. plan aimed at restoring order to Lebanon, and proposals for strengthening the army of the Lebanese authorities. What is this plan which is being brought by Reagan's envoy to the Middle East?

The main features of this plan leaked from Draper's preparatory tour and were mentioned more than once by U.S. newspapers. They can be summarized as follows:

First, Habib will work for the withdrawal of the Syrian missiles from Al-Biqa' at Zionist insistance accompanied by repeated threats from terrorist Begin that he would bomb these missiles otherwise. It is well known that the U.S. envoy began his mission following the so-called Syrian missile crisis. It is also well known that Syria refused to withdraw its missiles and challenged the Zionist threats.

Second, Habib will attempt to pull the joint forces out of their present positions because of Israeli demands that their artillery should be moved to where they cannot counter Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon.

Third, Habib will attempt to strengthen the positions of the sectarian army by weakening those of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement in the south and in other parts of Lebanon.

This much has been revealed about the plan brought to the region by Reagan's envoy. In general Habib is endeavoring to realize certain central aims in the Zionist policy of expansion in Lebanese territory. It seems that Reagan's envoy is charged with the task of implementing the political aspect of the U.S. Israeli strategic alliance. Moreover, Habib's tours of the region have always carried with them aggressive Zionist operations in the region and against Lebanon. Hence, Habib's tours have always been connected with an increase of tension in the region and have always been harbingers of war rather than peace. What the U.S. envoy is endeavoring to realize in the name of peace and under the pretext of rearranging the situation in Lebanon is in fact only another aspect of the blatant and continued U.S. interference in the Arab region in the service of imperialist and Zionist aims.

PFLP OFFICIAL CALLS FOR FOILING HABIB'S MISSION

JN010922 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Beirut, 1 Dec (SANA) -- PFLP official spokesman 'Umar Qutaysh has stressed that the existing alliance between Syria, the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement is capable of foiling the plot and confronting the continuous U.S.-Zionist threats.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent in Beirut, Qutaysh condemned the aggressive Israeli threats against Syria and said: We are confident that the alliance of national forces in Lebanon is capable of foiling Philip Habib's new-old mission and refuses to yield to the Zionist enemy's conditions.

He stressed that the threats and pressures to which Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement are being exposed make it incumbent on all the Arab national and progressive forces to support his alliance, which is now standing in the first confrontation trench.

KUWAIT

MIRAGE CRASHES; INCIDENT UNDER INVESTIGATION

LD011052 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Dec (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti Defense Ministry announced today that a French-made Mirage fighter aircraft crashed last Saturday shortly after taking off from an airbase on a routine training mission.

It said that the aircraft pilot, Capt 'Ali al-Fawdary, managed to escape alive from the accident which [words indistinct]. It added that an ad-hoc commission was set up to investigate the cause of this accident.

This accident is the fifth of its kind since last September when a Kuwaiti Hercules cargo aircraft crashed in French territory, killing eight servicemen on their way back to Kuwait. Last April, a Gazelle helicopter crashed in Kuwaiti territory, killing its pilot. Two months later, another helicopter crashed, killing the eight people on board and, on 21 June, a U.S.-made Skyhawk fighter aircraft crashed and its pilot was killed.

AL-QABAS ANALYZES REASONS FOR FES DEADLOCK

GF281947 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 27 Nov 81 p 1

[Opinion column by chief editor Jasim Ahmad an-Nisf: "The Deadlock and Biased Intentions"]

[Excerpts] The "Fes summit" concluded before it started. Some parties wanted it to be a starting point to practically and effectively confront the challenges and dangers besieging the Arab nation. Others wanted to nip it in the bud and prevent it from reaching a joint Arab view on life-or-death issues.

In Fes, Morocco, everything insinuated that the Arab meeting was shrouded by gloom even before it convened. Preparation fro the summit was poor and restricted, and Fes, the venue for the summit, was a bad choice. The organizational and security procedures were extremely arbitrary. Even reporters found themselves almost completely isolated from the summit meetings. No facilities of any kind were offered them.

The main thing that led to that deadlock and made the Arab leaders adjourn the summit was that certain delegations attended the conference with ill will and ideas that would never serve the fatal cause or the unification of the Arabs. Moreover, certain delegations arrived in Fes with one goal in mind: to add more fuel to the fire and set the entire Arab world aflame without the least consideration for the consequences or the least care for national welfare.

As if this were not enough, some attendants tried cheap auctioneering: They presented impractical demands that would disrupt Arab foreign relations and bring the Arabs more enemies. For instance, such auctioneering took place at the Arab foreign ministers meetings when certain delegations called on the Arab states giving financial support to the confrontation countries to boycott all European countries that announced readiness to participate in the multinational force in Sinai. The boycott was to be comprehensive, both political and economic.

From the start, the intentions of some parties were not sincere or faithful to Arab welfare. It was almost impossible to discuss the major issues amid the tension that charged the summit conference, not to mention that such discussion was risky and bound to cause joint Arab action -- a new setback added to the ones it has already suffered. Thus, narrowminded personal interests blinded some parties to consideration of the entire Arab homeland's national welfare, and thus "the Fes summit" reached a deadlock.

Saudi Arabia Blamed

GF010646 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Nov 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The Road to 'Fes' Passes Through Moscow"]

[Text] Several Arab parties admit now that one of the reasons for the failure of the Arab summit conference in "Fes" was the improper and inadequate preparation for the conference on the Arab and international levels.

Hopefully, the main gap in the entire stance is now being studied and reviewed by several parties that are concerned with the fate of peace in the Middle East. This gap sprung from a paradox that should have been eliminated before Saudi Prince Fahd's ideas were submitted to the Arab summit conference.

The fundamental paradox was that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the formulator of the eight-point plan, assigned a role to the Soviet Union -- within the framework of the United Nations -- to participate in the peace process in the Middle East. The paradox is that Saudi Arabia itself does not have normal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union while at the same time it recognizes its role in the region.

Saudi Arabia has to a large extent succeeded in filling part of the void of Arab leadership following Egypt's isolation from Arab ranks. The world today views Saudi Arabia as a regional superpower that has prestige, influence and authority in the region.

However, the Saudi leadership still lacks an important ingredient: its ability to establish balanced international relations with the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

If the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had closed this gap before heading toward "Fes," what happened could never have happened. It may be necessary to recognize this fact: The road to Damascus, Tripoli and the PLO passes through Moscow.

Saudi Arabia imagined that it could establish bridges of mutual agreement with Syria and the PLO and perhaps with Libya, too, through brotherhood and Arab cooperation alone, without considering the international commitments of those brothers with the Soviet Union.

It is now obvious that this Saudi deduction was not exactly correct and that achieving Arab unanimity on Fahd's plan necessitated a direct dialogue with the Soviets rather than dealing with them from behind their backs or through mediators. If politics means confronting facts as they are, bitter or sweet, this is the most prominent fact. It has the most serious influence on the current attempts to evaluate the reasons for the failure of the recent Arab summit in "Fes."

KUNA CITES ARAB PRESS ON BREAKDOWN OF FES SUMMIT

LD271044 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0927 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Nov (KUNA) -- In press statements published today, Moroccan and Palestinian sources have expressed surprise at Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's failure to attend the Arab summit conference, which wound up its meetings only a few hours after it began on Wednesday.

AL-KHALIJ quotes Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani as saying that "the absence of President al-Asad came as a surprise to all, particularly as he had assured the Palestinian delegation before it left for Morocco that he would be going to Fes -- this was also confirmed by King Hassan II of Morocco, chairman of the conference."

He added that Arab League sources became certain of President al-Asad's decision not to attend only hours before the beginning of the conference's work, and that "efforts were exerted to persuade him to attend but with no success."

The paper cites Moroccan sources as also saying that "President al-Asad's bodyguards had actually arrived in Fes on Tuesday and were shown to the place where he would be staying." AL-BAYAN, published in Dubayy, writes that "the sharp words uttered by King Hassan during the summit conference were due to his personal anger at the failure of President al-Asad to attend, despite the personal assurances he had given the Moroccan king during a telephone conversation they had on the eve of the conference that he would be attending."

It is recalled that a strong verbal exchange took place during the conference between Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the head of the Syrian delegation, and King Hassan II after the king had made remarks casting doubts on Khaddam's competence to attend a conference held at the level of heads of states. King Hassan said that "persons attending as representatives of heads of states are not in a position to participate in fruitful discussions and to decide on compromises." This remark aroused a strong reaction from Khaddam, which in turn prompted the Moroccan king to say "anyone who does not like what I say may leave the conference hall."

AL-KHALIJ says that "the Arab efforts will now center on containing the Syrian-Saudi differences over Prince Fahd's initiative, particularly as both countries seem anxious to find a way out of the impasse."

Quoting its own sources, the newspaper writes that it expects Algeria, with backing from Kuwait, Morocco and the UAE, to embark on political activity aimed at clarifying the positions of the Arab sides, in particular those of Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia."

The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which includes Syria, the PLO, Libya, Algeria and the PDRY, had some reservations about the Saudi plan, particularly concerning the point dealing with recognition of the right of the region's countries to live in peace.

CORRECTION TO KUNA ON U.S. REACTION TO SUMMIT

The following correction should be made to the item entitled "KUNA on U.S. Reaction," published in the 30 November Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on pages C 3 - C 5:

On page C 4, the antepenultimate paragraph's first line should read: "Although they are [not] prone to admit it in public,"

PDRY

YAR'S PRESIDENT SALIH IN ADEN FOR UNITY TALKS

Arrival Statement

LD301508 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland, and his delegation arrived by land at noon today for a visit to the southern part of the homeland on the invitation of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Brother 'Ali Abdallah Salih made a press statement in which he said: I am extremely happy to have this valuable opportunity to visit this dear and beloved part of our homeland, the southern part of Yemen, in response to an invitation extended to me by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general fo the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and chairman of the Council of Ministers. It is a valuable opportunity because it coincides with a national occasion dear to my heart and dear to all the masses of the Yemeni people. I mean the occasion of the 14th anniversary of independence, the independence of the southern part of the homeland from the claws of British colonialism. I am happy to share so closely in the joyful celebration of this dear anniversary, which represents a brilliant symbol of national pride and for which our people have paid so dearly with the lives of their dutiful martyrs and the sacred blood of their sons.

With their long struggle, our people have written the most splendid and [word indistinct] of heroism, sacrifice and [word indistinct] until the great victory was achieved on 30 November 1967.

Looking forward to achieving more Yemeni victories, I shall be meeting brother officials in the southern part of the homeland, headed by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, to continue the discussion of pressing and important subjects relating to the reunification of Yemen -- a matter of the Yemeni people's destiny -- in light of the Yemeni people's views on what we have already achieved in our previous unity dialogues. This was done through joint committees and measures taken to establish joint economic and cultural organization.

We shall definitely devote our meeting to entrenching the pillars of Yemeni unity and the (?utilization) of Yemen's potential and energies in (?the direction) which will serve national [word indistinct] and comprehensive development and consolidate the firm establishment of security and stability between the two parts of the homeland. This is particularly so since we fully control our own will to take decisions on matters of destiny in the interests of our Yemeni people after the liberation of the two parts of our homeland from the tyrannical and backward rule of the imams and the tyranny of the hated British colonialism.

We are able to implement [as heard] and this makes it inevitable for us to wage the major battle against our abominable legacy of backwardness and fragmentation, which obstructs moves toward development and progress in our country.

I am highly confident that our meeting with brother officials in Aden today will produce a number of important and positive results for the unity of our people and the victory of pressing national issues, and that it will strengthen our Arab nation to make it more able to confront all types of challenges and conspiracies.

More on Arrival

JN301310 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, arrived in Aden at 1330 today on an official visit to the southern part of the homeland. He was received in Lahij by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland, and senior officials. The two leaders drove by car to Aden. President Salih was given a great and warm reception in the cities of Lahij, Dar Sa'ad and Shaykh 'Uthman by the people and officials.

The entire population of Aden came out to receive the president in an unprecedented manner.

Talks were held following the president's arrival in Aden between himself and President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

The president left Ta'izz this morning on his way to Aden. He was seen off by officials in the Ta'izz Governorate.

Salih Speech

JN302113 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Talks between the two parts of the homeland began at the presidential palace in Aden this afternoon.

The northern part's side was headed by Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. The southern part's side was headed by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih delivered an effusive, impromptu speech in which he said: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother Chairman, dear brothers in the southern part of the homeland: Allow me, in my own name, on the behalf of the brother members of the delegation accompanying from the northern part of the homeland and on the behalf of the great masses of the northern part of the homeland, to convey to you my regards on this great day when the southern part of our homeland became independent from British colonialism.

Mr Chairman, dear brothers: Through you and on behalf of the millions in the northern part of your homeland, I would like to convey warm regards to the sons of the southern part of the homeland on this great occasion. Once again, allow me personally, and on behalf of the brother members of my delegation, to thank you for the warm welcome which you. Mr Chairman, and the Yemeni masses in the southern part of the homeland accorded us. This reflects the sincerity of our masses in both parts and their aspirations to achieve the great goal: unity of the two parts.

We, along with all our honorable and loyal people, are working to lead the two partys toward achieving this great goal to which all aspire: achieving Yemeni unity on sound and democratic bases in accordance with the agreements signed between the two leaderships.

Mr Chairman, dear brothers: We have advanced with great strides toward achieving Yemeni unity. Indeed, we began with the cornerstone of establishing joint institutions in the two parts' leaderships. We are all aware that achieving unity necessitates serious, responsible and conscientious steps so that this great goal which our people in the two parts aspire to achieve will not suffer setbacks. We all talk about and aspire to unity. However, we tell you here in the capital, Aden, today that your brothers in the northern part will not hesitate to achieve Yemeni unity on the bases agreed on and without any outbiddings or exaggeration.

Brother Chairman: There is no need today to review the past, which is full of blemishes. In the past 2 years, however, we have taken noticeable strides forward, thanks to the awareness and maturity of the leaderships in the two parts, headed by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in the southern part of the homeland.

We are coming here today, to the southern part of our homeland, bearing love, sincerity, honesty and faithfulness to all the masses of our people in the two parts. We bear peace, security and stability so that the Yemenis in the two parts can enjoy a happy life.

Brother Chairman: Our people in the two parts have struggled and fought against colonialism and the imamate. They offered the most cherished thing they possess, the skulls of martyrs, in order to live free and victorious on their soil and to preserve their traditions, principles and dignity. They will not relinquish land or sovereighty under any circumstances.

Brother Chairman, cherished brothers: I thank you once again on behalf of your brothers and sons in the northern part of the homeland for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded us since we first arrived in our homeland and country among our brothers, sons, fathers and colleagues. I reiterate thanks and appreciation on behalf of the brother members of my delegation to all the masses of our people in the southern part of the homeland.

UAE

AL-ITTIHAD SEES SITUATION BLEAK AFTER FES

GF281850 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Nov 81 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Excerpts] Arab and international media are vying with each other in describing the outcome of the Fes summit. Some describe it as a total failure while others characterize it as a calamity, setback or catastrophe or other similar descriptions that increase the Arab citizen's anxiety and sense of failure and exacerbate the pain.

Today, after the Fes summit, whether as the result of a sound or unsound judgment, the picture appears bleak. The Arab homeland is covered by black clouds. The Arab world is asking whether the Arabs have become divided and are split into conflicting blocs and axes. Observers are speculating on the next stage and making forecasts about the future of the region and the future of the conflict in and around the region.

Out of our concern for the supreme Arab interests, regrettably it is necessary to say that the Arab homeland is now in an unenviable position -- a position that can only please its enemies. It is also necessary to say that the only result of this situation is further Israeli intransigence now that the Camp David road has reached an impasse, the "European initiative" is paralyzed and the "Arab initiative" is unable to make a decision of war or peace. Such a situation may give the Israeli enemy the opportunity to bypass the problems besetting him at home and abroad by launching a new attack that is fiercer and with far-reaching aims than past offensives in order to reshuffle the cards in the region and redistribute the roles. Hence, the importance of Arab action to restore solidarity and rally ranks and open a new page of objectives that views what happened at Fes as only a stumble. As the Arabs of old used to day, any horse may stumble and any sword may miss.

MAY DETAILS RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

NC292218 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA) -- The newspaper May says that President Husni Mubarak sees that what he did recently in releasing imprisoned politicians was natural and expected. This is because the decision made in September to hold in custody a number of citizens was not absolute in the sense that they would be held indefinitely. The decision depended on the outcome of the investigations which the socialist public prosecutor's office would conduct with these citizens.

The newspaper says that it was proven to the president in the light of a report submitted by Socialist Prosecutor Counselor 'Abd al-Qadir Ahmad 'Ali that the maximum measure that could be taken against some of thsoe held under custody was to refer them to the Ethics Court to question them about some of their behavior and the articles which they published in local and foreign newspapers.

The newspaper adds that President Mubarak found that the security conditions which the terrorist design imposed on us recently dictated the integration of all individuals -- opposition and supporters -- to protect Egypt's peace and security from the grave dimensions of this design. Hence, the president issued the decision to release 31 politicians. Such a decision could be repeated vis-a-vis anyone whose innocence is proved.

In Monday's edition, the newspaper relates the process involving the release of these politicians. It says that Mubarak summoned the socialist prosecutor and asked him about the investigations with those held in custody. One week after this meeting, the socialist prosecutor prepared a comprehensive report on the stands of these politicians.

The newspaper says that President Mubarak found that the charges against the politicians had become irrelevant, except those accused of communicating with a foreign power, who were referred to the state supreme security court's prosecutor, since it is a case toward which no laxity should be shown.

The newspaper says Mubarak and his aides then made the decision to release these politicians, who were not informed of the decision until after they left the prison and met with him.

MUBARAK PERMITS DETAINEE TO RUN IN ELECTIONS

NC242315 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 24 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA) -- Cairo's AL-AKHBAR reports in Wednesday's edition that President Husni Mubarak has agreed to the nomination of Ibrahim Yunis, one of the persons detained, to the People's Assembly elections in Kawm Hamadah constituency as a representative of the opposition Labor Party.

AL-AKHBAR says that President Mubarak has ordered the facilitation of the process for producing and accepting the nomination papers. Ibrahim Yunis was allowed to leave prison and go to Cairo's Security Directorate to complete the nomination papers.

AL-AKHBAR adds that President Mubarak responded to the request of the opposition Labor Party and decided not to deprive the detained Yunis of his right to be nominated despite being detained and despite the fact that the National Democratic Party has its own candidate for the same constituency. Thus, the president has decided to let the masses of Kawm Hamadah themselves elect who they want in complete freedom.

MUBARAK MAY BE READY TO REINSTATE COPTIC POPE

NC281805 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (AFP) -- President Husni Mubarak is reportedly considering the reinstatement of Pope Shinudah III, the head of the Egyptian Coptic Church whom the late President Anwar as-Sadat dismissed in a September crackdown, reliable Coptic sources said today.

They said eight Coptic bishops and 13 priests detained for "religious sedition" could also be released. They were among more than 1,500 people arrested in the September wave to root out religious and political extremists.

His reinstatement was expected in the "coming days", the sources said. It would follow a government decision Wednesday to release 31 political figures.

After his dismissal, Pope Shinudah III was restricted to the desert monastery at Wadi an-Natrun some 100 km (60 miles) northwest of the capital. He was deprived of both secular and administrative powers as head of Egypt's largest Christian community, which counts five to eight million of the country's 44 million citizens.

Mr as-Sadat had accused the pope of organizing anti-government demonstrations. He was also blamed with stirring up the bloody clashes between Moslems and Coptic Christians in the Cairo suburb of Zawiyat al-Hamra' last June that left 14 dead and 50 injured, according to official records.

Mr as-Sadat chose a five-man Papal Council to replace the pope, one of whom was also killed in the October 6 assassination attack on Mr as-Sadat.

The same sources also said the State Council Administrative Court will continue hearings Tuesday on a request to cancel President as-Sadat's order dismissing Pope Shinudah III.

The request was filed October 3 by a Moslem lawyer, 'Abd al-Halim Hasan Ramadan. During the first three sessions, he argued that Mr as-Sadat had exceeded constitutional limits by ordering the dismissal, the sources said.

The state's representatives tried to have the hearing called off, challenging the Moslem lawyer's right to act as legal counsel in a Christian case, according to the sources. But Mr Ramadan countered that he was defending "an Egyptian citizen, independent of his religion, color and race".

AL-MAJALLAH INTERVIEWS OPPOSITION LEADERS

PM010955 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Nov-4 Dec 81 pp 19-21

[Report on AL-MAJALLAH correspondent's interview with Egyptian opposition leaders in Cairo: "Egyptian Opposition Leaders Talk to AL-MAJALLAH" -- date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Socialist Labor Party Leaders] Eng Ibrahim Shukri has told AL-MAJALLAH: "It was natural for the Labor Party to seek a meeting with President Mubarak as soon as possible after the president took office. The fact that the president responded to our wish was in itself a positive indicator which we welcomed."

"Our discussion covered the president's new line, especially the attitude to the Arab states and the suspension of the media campaign against them. There was agreement on the domestic aspect."

[Question] President Mubarak is continuing with As-Sadat's policy. Have you changed your position?

[Shukri] He explained that the urgent matter that imposed itself on everyone was Egypt's stability and the prevention of any shocks of chaos, which could have incalcuable results. This makes it incumbent on everyone to support the national leadership chosen by the People's Assembly. It is quite unrealistic to link this to a rejection of a previous position on which we have already expressed an opinion. I wish to state here that our previous position on the peace treaty has not changed and will never change.

[Question] Have you had any contact with those held in custody since the assassination?

[Answer] Visits are restricted. Most meetings take place between party lawyers and the detainees during the investigations.

[Question] What about the future?

[Answer] We consulted with the other parties on the question of support for the nomination of President Mubarak. Each party had a different view. As for the future, I say that it is natural to have a dialogue between the majority and the opposition, and it is unnatural to stop the dialogue. Still, I say that despite the meeting we will oppose anything that contradicts or impedes democracy, which is upheld by everyone. [Answer ends]

President Mubarak's second meeting was with "the independents," of whom counselor Mumtaz Nassar is the most prominent. He is one of the most prominent opposition members in the People's Assembly.

[Question] Why have you changed your position?

[Answer] Had President Mubarak's speech and address to the People's Assembly preceded the request for Mubarak's nomination for the presidency, we would have not hesitated for one moment in supporting him. Anyway, during our meeting with the president we discussed cooperation between the majority and the opposition and the president agreed that supreme national issues should be subject to dialogue between the opposition and the majority before going to the constitutional institutions. He maintained that Egypt's highest interest lies in its return to the Arab ranks and also that the highest Arab interest lies in the return of the Arabs to Egypt. On the question of the detainees, President Mubarak said that the rule of law necessitates the completion of the investigations first, that this will be done expeditiously and that whoever is proven innocent will be released immediately. President Mubarak has issued instructions to this effect. He also told me that "all this will be completed with the next 2 months at the most."

[Question] What is the position on the Camp David treaty in the light of the new developments?

[Answer] President Mubarak is not responsible for a treaty signed by his predecessor. This does not mean that he can renounce it, because it is an international treaty bound to laws and agreements which we cannot renounce. This is why I cannot oppose the incumbent president simply on the ground that he cannot abrogate the treaty. However, after the completion of the withdrawal from the rest of Sinai, he should try to amend the restrictions inserted in the treaty by the other two signatories, namely the United States and Israel. An example is that restriction regarding the international emergency forces. I wonder; is it not Egypt's right to specify the length of stay, size and structure of these forces? This should be amended. But to abrogate the treaty and give Sinai back to the Jews, we say no!"

[Question] How do you view Prince Fahd's plan as a substitute for the treaty?

[Answer] Prince Fahd's plan is better than the Camp David treaty, and we hope that it will succeed so that comprehensive peace will prevail throughout the Middle East.

President Mubarak's third meeting was with Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad.

[Question] Has there been any coordination between the Liberal Party and the other opposition parties?

[Murad] Our position is quite clear. We are with every nationalist government which has the interests and aspirations of the Arab people at heart and which endeavors to solve their problems and promote stability. Our opposition has always emanated from knowledge of the role of the opposition in promoting prosperity, security and democracy. This is why we declared our support from the beginning for President Mubarak as successor to President as-Sadat. On this basis, we will be happy to coordinate with any party that agrees with this position.

When President Mubarak held his meetings with the opposition leaders, Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Party, was the only one excluded. Muhyi ad-Din, however, asked for a meeting with President Mubarak, and his request was granted on 15 November.

He had the following to say:

[Question] Is it true that the Party will begin a dialogue with the government and that this will be done by Party Higher Secretariat Member Ibrahim Sa'd ad-Din?

[Answer] To clarify this much debated point I would like to say that during the next Central Committee meeting the Party will deal in its political report with the current situation and the possibilities of change. The Central Committee will draft a simplified program of what is required that might be acceptable to all parties. The aim will be to extricate the country from its present crisis. The purpose of the program will also be to begin the so-called national dialogue among the various political forces. This does not mean to say that we are abandoning the Party's long- or short-term objectives, but under the present circumstances this move could create a suitable atmosphere for meeting, understanding and solidarity among the patriotic force in the national interest.

[Question] From the Party's viewpoint, what are the priorities at the domestic level in Egypt at present?

[Answer] The most important task now is to end violence and restore normal conditions conducive to the exercise of democracy, which is now suspended because of the exceptional circumstances in Egypt.

It has been proved that the danger to the government came not from those with declared opinions, no matter how dangerous they are in its view, but from those with undeclared views and from steps taken in secrecy with guns and dynamite. Perhaps the majority party has now learned this lesson.

[Question] Is your present support for some of Husni Mubarak's policies attributable to the fact that he has not attacked Libya or Russia, as claimed by the Egyptian press?

[Answer] What the Egyptian papers have said is a pure fabrication, no more, no less. The Party did not issue any statement to this effect. The last statement was on the referendum. There were press interviews in which I highlighted the president's views on several issues, especially his attitude to the opposition, the suspension of attacks on the Arab countries, his fight against indiscipline, his opinion of the detainees, and also his attitude on Russia and Libya and his assertion that there are no Egyptian troop concentrations on the western borders. I mentioned all this, but the Egyptian press concentrated on the part about Libya and Russia, which of course undermines the overall context.

[Question] The recent measures included the arrest of 155 Party members on the charge of complicity in the latest schemes. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] We want conditions to return to normal so that an end can be put to what is happening. Under extraordinary conditions the security organs play the main part. Where the security organs prevail, democracy, expression of opinion and dialogue end. This is why we do not just look at the arrest of the Party members but rather view the matter as a general phenomenon. A just law should control the situation and it, not the security organs, should have the final word.

[Question] The Party has opposed the peace treaty and the Camp David agreements. What is your Party's opinion of Prince Fahd's plan as an alternative to the Camp David treaty?

[Answer] We cannot reject the points which are in Prince Fahd's plan, but the plan lacks certain points which would make it more acceptable, for example, a statement that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We can say that Prince Fahd's plan represents what is possible under the present circumstances in the region.

MENA QUESTIONS BARRE, MUBARAK ON FES RESULTS

NC301317 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak hosted a luncheon today at At-Tahirah Palace in honor of Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and his delegation.

Following the banquet and before leaving At-Tahirah Palace, President Barre answered a question by MENA on his statement that the Fes summit conference was not bad saying: According to my concept, it was not bad. It was postponed only to reach an agreement on another date for convening the conference when all parties concerned could attend it. He added: What is important is that all heads of state should participate in the discussions and analyze the situation so as to make it possible to adopt an objective decision.

Answering a question on his evaluation of the Fes summit, President Husni Mubarak -- who had earlier called for waiting until after the convocation of the conference -- said: I said let us wait. You have waited and saw the result. Therefore, it is not necessary that we make an analysis of the situation. Everything is clear and evident.

Answering a question on the statement by King Hassan of Morocco that it was not possible to make any progress without Egypt, President Mubarak said: Yes, this is true but I have no comment.

MENA has learned that President Barre will stop over in Abu Dhabi on his way home to meet with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

MUHYI AD-DIN ON DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT BARRE

NC301400 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre departed Cairo at 1400 today following a brief 1-day visit. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and senior statesmen bade him farewell.

First Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din stated that the discussions dealt with the distinguished historical relations between Egypt and Somalia. Dr Muhyi ad-Din depicted these relations as strong, adding that they have now reached their zenith -- Egypt and Somalia both belonging to the Arab world and to Africa and joint matters of interest -- binding the two countries together. He also said that all domains came under review, particularly trade matters and their expansion, the establishment by the two countries of joint projects and meeting Somalia's requirements for Egyptian expertise.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din said that the talks also touched on the present political situation in the Middle East and in the Horn of Africa, adding that viewpoints were identical on all issues raised. Furthermore, the talks dealt with the interest which Egypt takes in protecting Somalia and its borders against any attack.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din added that the Somali president invited President Husni Mubarak to visit Somalia, adding that a date will be set for this visit later. President Husni Mubarak had hosted the Somali guest at a luncheon at noon today.

OFFICIAL CONFERS ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIET CHARGE

NC301814 Cairo MENA in English 1730 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA) -- First Foreign Undersecretary Jamal Mansur conferred today with the Soviet charge d'affairs on Egyptian-Soviet relations.

MUBARAK MEETS 'ALI, GHALI ON MFO 28 NOV

NC281044 Cairo MENA in English 0952 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received this morning Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, state minister for foreign affairs. 'Ali said following the 60-minute meeting that they discussed some matters pertaining to international relations.

The foreign minister pointed out that the meeting focused on topics relating to normalisation of ties with Israel and the arrangements for the Israeli final withdrawal from Sinai. A meeting at minister's level will be held at the Foreign Ministry premises on 1 December to deal with what had been agreed upon concerning the handing over of the remaining part of Sinai and ventures to be run immediately following the Israeli pull-out and the plan of ministries concerned, 'Ali added.

Today's meeting also dealt with issues pertaining to the financing of the restoration of installations and equipment which these ministries would require from the Israeli side.

In reply to a query on whether they had discussed the Fes summit, 'Ali said they did not discuss the issue.

on the prospective Israeli decision concerning the Sinai Multi-national Force and Observers (MFO), the Egyptian foreign minister said in fact, the MFO with the present participating countries, namely, the United States, Uruguay, Colombia and Fiji, could form a full-fledged peace keeping force in Sinai, and it is elementary to welcome the participation of European countries, Australia and New Zealand in the MFO as this will give impetus to the peace process.

'Ali pointed out that Israel's decision on the formation of the MFO would not affect the force itself, since the MFO is already formed and its commander is already there.

About Israel's reservations regarding the MFO, the Foreign Minister said that the issue was currently being discussed in Washington between American Secretary of State Alexander Haig and his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhaq Shamir, and a statement would be issued in Washington within the next few hours on the final position.

Asked whether another date had been fixed for Israel's final withdrawal from the Sinai, as the previously scheduled date, April 25 would be a Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, 'Ali stressed that a day earlier or later would not matter, however the exact final date would be under discussions shortly, he added.

AL-AHRAM ON ISRAEL'S STAND ON EC IN SINAI FORCE

NC280052 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2355 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA) -- In tomorrow's edition, AL-AHRAM says that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali have instructed Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal to inform U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig of Egypt's official stand on Israeli attempts to declare its rejection of the participation of the European Community in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

The paper points out that Dr Ashraf Ghurbal conveyed Egypts official stand to Haig when the U.S. secretary summoned Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaw Shamir to discuss Israel's stand on European participation in the peacekeeping force.

AL-AHRAM adds: Egypt has explained three main points to the U.S. side, which the United States knows well. These are:

1. Egypt did not ask for the participation of the European Economic Community, namely the 10 states, Britain, France, the Netherlands and Italy which will participate in the peacekeeping force, except after consultations with Israel. This took place when an Israeli delegation was in Cairo as well as most of the EC foreign ministers [as received -- possibly during As-Sadat funeral]. Bilateral and trilateral contacts had taken place between Egypt and Israel on one hand and between Israel and the foreign ministers of these countries and between Egypt and Israel and the foreign ministers of some of these countries in Cairo after clarifying the stands in a final manner on the basis of direct contacts between the sides concerned.

2. The EC countries did not make the decision on participation in the force except after receiving the approval of the sides concerned, namely Egypt and Israel as well as the United States, which is responsible for the mustering of the force. The EC statement had contained a frank stipulation that its participation was in accordance with the wishes of those sides.

3. Israel had known that when it approved the participation of the EC that the Community's states had issued the Venice declaration and had openly defined their stand on all aspects of the Middle East problem. Thus, the EC stand on this problem was not a surprise to Israel or the area's states and foremost to the United States. The United States had also asked for a clarification of the EC states stand on all aspects of the Middle East problem and had helped in declaring its acceptance to participate in the force.

The diplomatic circles in Cairo consider that Israel's attempts to declare its rejection of Europe's participation in the force or its pretending to be rejecting as tantamount to attempting to disassociate itself from a policy to which it committed itself. The hint that the rejection of Europe's participation in the force will lead to the creation of a new reality concerning the peacekeeping force is rejected because the force has actually been formed and it consists of an American director general, a Norwegian commander, and units from the United States, Colombia, Fiji and Uruguay, although the European participation will add to the required international character of this force.

Meanwhile, the paper says that Israel will exert diplomatic efforts to obtain bigger privileges in the strategic cooperation discussions which will take place in Washington between the U.S. administration and Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

The paper says that the price Israel will accept for the participation of Europe in the multinational force will be its acquisition of bigger privileges and aid from the United States.

AS-SADAT ASSASSINATION INDICTMENT REPORTED

NC121905 Cairo MENA in English 1444 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA) -- The military prosecutor has levelled charges against 24 persons in the case of the assassination of late President Anwar as-Sadat.

The principal accused is first Lieutenant Khalid Ahmad Shawqi al-Islambuli of the Artillery Corps. The case (No 7 for 1981) will be heard by the Supreme Military Court.

The bill of indictment was released here this afternoon. The accused are:

1. Khalid Ahmad Shawqi al-Islambuli, first lieutenant, Artillery Corps.

2. 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd as-Salam 'Abd al-'Al, bookshop proprietor.

3. 'Ata Tayil Hamid Rahil, engineer.

4. Husayn 'Abbas Muhammad, volunteer sergeant in the People's Defence Forces.

The four are accused of premeditated murder of late President as-Sadat during the military parade on October 6.

The first accused exploited the fact that he was in charge of elements of his unit who took part in the military parade and enabled the second, third and fourth accused to replace three members of the original crew of a vehicle which towed a 13-mm gun. He also abused his rank and smuggled ammunition and four hand grenades into the parade ground.

5. Muhammad 'Abd as-Salam Farah 'Atiyah, engineer. He is charged of criminal agreement, instigation and assisting the first four. He instigated them to shed innocent blood by giving false interpretations of the Islamic sharia (law). He included these interpretation in a book which he wrote and published.

6. Karam Muhammad Zuhdi, student at the faculty of agriculture, Asyut University.

7. Fu'ad Muhammad Ahmad Hanafi (known as Fu'ad Dawalibi Nasir), furniture dealer.

8. 'Asim 'Abd al-Majid Muhammad Madi, student of engineering, Asyut University.

9. Usamah Ibrahim Hafiz, student, faculty of engineering, Asyut University.

Accused from 6th to 9th participated with the first four accused in carrying out the crime of assassinating President as-Sadat as a result of criminal agreement as they are leaders of the groups which propagate deviating thoughts and called for the assassination of the head of state and his assistants. They agreed to carry out their plan by assassinating President as-Sadat and prominent personalities during the military parade on October 6.

10. Dr 'Umar Ahmad 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman, professor at the theology college. He took part with the accused from the first to the 9th in instigating the assassination of the late President as-Sadat. He accepted to be leader of the misguided group, knowing their criminal plans which called for shedding of innocent blood and stealing funds. He issued fatwas (opinions) which encouraged them to carry out their plans.

11. 'Abbud 'Abd al-Latif Hasan az-Zumur, lt colonel in the armed forces.

12. Salih Ahmad Salih Shahin, engineer.

13. 'Abd an-Nasir 'Abd al-'Alim Ahmad Barrah, secondary school student.

14. Tariq 'Abd al-Mawjud Ibrahim az-Zumur, student, faculty of agriculture, Cairo University.

15. Muhammad Tariq Ibrahim Muhammad, dentist.

16. Usamah as-Sayyid Muhammad Qasim, student, faculty of art, Az-Zaqaziq University.

17. Salah as-Sayyid Bayyumi, house decorator.

18. 'Ala' ad-Din 'Abd al-Mun'im Ibrahim, student, teachers college, Az-Zaqaziq University.

19. Anwar 'Abd al-'Azim Muhammad Muhammad 'Ukashah, student, teachers college, Az-Zaqaziq University.

20. 'Tariq Isma'il al-Masri, driver.

21. 'Ali Muhammad Farraj 'Ali, carpenter in Az-Zaqaziq.

22. 'Abdallah Muhammad Muhammad Salim, student, theology college.

23. Safwat Ibrahim Hamad al-Ashwah, chemist.

24. Sayyid 'Ali Muhammad Isma'il as-Salamuni, lecturer, teachers college, 'Ayn Shams University.

They are accused of participating with and assisting the accused from the first to the fifth in carrying out the crime of assassinating late President as-Sadat after they had embraced the deviating thought which instigated the killing of the head of state.

They approved the plan which called for attacking the presidential stand during the October 6 military parade and assassinating President as-Sadat and those with him by devoting their activities, time and resources to carry out the criminal plan. They also participated in procuring the bombs and ammunition which were used in the attack.

All accused with the exception of accused No 10 (Dr 'Umar Ahmad 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman) who is blind are accused of procuring unlicensed arms and ammunition with the aim of committing political assassination.

The military prosecution cited a number of laws on the basis of which the trial should be based. The laws specify the death sentence for penalty.

MURDER TRIAL TO RESUME 5 DEC IN CLOSED SESSION

NC301207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1143 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA) -- At its sitting today, the Supreme Military Court decided to adjourn the case on the assassination of leader Anwar as-Sadat until 5 December for familiarization, preparation and consideration of the case at a closed session to safeguard the secrets of the Armed Forces.

The court panel decided to deposit the answer of the mufti of Egypt on the booklet "The Hidden Duty" with the dossier of the case and refer defendants 5, 7, 19 and 23 to forensic medicine and to turn down the other applications of the defense counsel.

The court also decided to reject the defense's requests to hear the testimonies of some officials and a number of religious and political personalities.

One of the attorneys had also said that the military court is not qualified to look into this case, adding that the bill of indictment is null and void. He said that he would explain the reasons for the aforementioned claims during the court's forthcoming session.

The Supreme Military Court held its second session this morning under the chairmanship of Maj Gen Samir Fadhil and the membership of Maj Gen Mustafa Fadhil and Maj Gen 'Abd al-'Aziz ash-Sha'ir. The session was held amid stringent security measures. At the beginning of the 4-hour session the court called the 24 defendants by name to ascertain their presence. It also ascertained that a lawyer was present to talk with the defendants and that the 13 assassination witnesses were also on hand, foremost of whom is Maj Gen Muhammad Nabih as-Sayyid, who is the commander of the department for the training of the Armed Forces, and the retired Maj Gen ('Abd al-Mun'im Wasil).

Later, the president of the court called the defendants and confronted them with the accusations directed against each of them as mentioned in the bill of indictment. The [word indistinct] defendant Khalid al-Islambuli was addressed by the president of the court who accused him of premeditated murder and of stalking the president and 7 other persons and of killing 28 other persons who were on the platform during the military parade. Khalid al-Islambuli confessed to killing As-Sadat but denied the claim that he had killed others.

The defendants pleaded not guilty when they were confronted with the accusations against them.

The eighth defendant, 'Asim 'Abd al-Majid, attended the court session for the first time. He was carried on a stretcher after he was hit following his transfer from the police hospital to the war prison hospital.

During the deliberations period, the war security authorities allowed the defendants to talk with their lawyers and relatives. Their relatives also handed them copies of the holy Koran.

Defendants' Statements

NC301506 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Nov (AFP) -- The 24 defendants charged with involvement in the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat today pleaded not guilty, though four of them, accused of direct involvement in the shooting, openly claimed responsibility for the president's killing.

Lieutenant Khalid al-Islambuli, the leader of the commando which opened fire on the president at a military parade of October 6, claimed responsibility for the action, saying: "I killed As-Sadat, I'm proud of it".

But he denied attempting to kill other political leaders in the official review stand, and asked that Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalh be called upon to testify.

"He knows that if I had wanted to kill him, I could have done so," he said.

Another self-proclaimed commando member, 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd as-Salam, called on President Husni Mubarak to testify for the same reason.

Today's court session was much stormier than the first, with several defence attorneys fielding political counter-charges in defence of their clients. One attorney, referring to September's wave of arrests in the country, explained his client's actions as a reaction to "state terrorism". He also noted that some 31 political prisoners had recently been released, and he called on two of them to testify.

The court president has turned down an application by a leading religious figure to testify on one of the exhibits, a small booklet purporting to be a religious justification for terrorism.

Today's session was to have been held in open court, but the three-judge military tribunal had reserved the right to exclude the public where necessary to state security, sources said.

MUBARAK RECEIVES U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

NC011021 Cairo MENA in English 0940 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received here today at Al-'Urubah Palace the delegation of U.S. congressmen visiting here. At the beginning of the meeting which was attended by U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton, the 17-member delegation conveyed the Congress' condolences on the death of late As-Sadat.

Meeting With Ghali

NC301427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA) -- Today, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali received a delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee headed by Jonathan Bingham. The delegation is visiting Cairo. The meeting was also attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton. During the meeting Dr Ghali outlined Egypt's efforts for peace. He affirmed that since the 1977 peace initiative Egypt's diplomacy has been focusing on the need to attain an overall and just solution to the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue and not only to achieve peace between Egypt and Israel. During the discussions, Dr Ghali dealt with the broad lines of Egypt's Arab and African policies. He stressed Egypt's vanguard role in the liberation of the African continent as well as the aid it is extending to these countries in technical know-how and expertise. He also noted the role played by the Egyptian technicians and experts in developing the Arab countries. He affirmed Egypt's struggle against the attempts to divert the Nonaligned Movement from its natural path. The discussions also dealt with the formation of the multinational force and Egypt's stance on welcoming the participation of the European countries in it.

Abu Ghazalah Meeting

NC301616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA) -- The Minister of Defense and War Production Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah this afternoon received Mr Jonathan Bingham, who is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was also attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton and the director of the U.S. military cooperation department in Cairo.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMANDO COMMUNIQUE 538

JN301654 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1622 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA) -- The Iraqi forces have mounted a large-scale counterattack in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region to pursue retreating Persian forces which had tried to attack our forces. In the battle, which is still raging, the Persian enemy lost large numbers of killed or wounded and large quantities of its equipment. Iraqi aircraft pounded the retreating Persian forces in the same region, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment before returning safely to base.

Reporting on the progress of the military operations in the past 24 hours, Communique No 538 issued by the Armed Forces General Command put enemy losses at 79 killed; 3 vehicles, 4 boats and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed; and 1 fighter plane and 1 helicopter downed. Our losses were 10 martyrs in all sectors.

The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 538 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The valiant soldiers of Iraq, the brave men of the 20th century, continue to record brilliant pages in the history of our nation and great people by courageously fighting for justice and dignity against the forces of the aggressive regime of charlatanry in Iran which is trying to throw its defeated troops into losing battles from which they reap nothing but death and destruction. The outcome of our armed forces' activities in the operational sectors last night and today was as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Fierce battles continued to rage in the Khafajiyah region yesterday and today. With deep faith and high confidence in victory, our units mounted a large-scale counterattack and pursued the retreating enemy forces. In the battle, which is still raging, the enemy sustained as yet uncounted heavy losses of life and large quantities of destroyed equipment. We will provide you with the total of our losses and enemy losses in subsequent communiques.
B. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in front of their forward units in the Abadan region, killing 49 and destroying 3 vehicles, 4 boats and 1 stockpile of hardware.
C. Our forward units mounted a successful and daring raid on enemy concentrations in the Dezful region. They engaged the enemy in a short, fierce battle during which the enemy sustained 28 killed.
D. Two were killed in the Mimak region in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Two enemy aircraft were shot down in the southern sector of the theater of operations. The first, a fighter plane, was downed in a dogfight while the second, a helicopter, was shot down by our forward units.
F. Since early this morning, our brave airforce eagles have been continuing their raids and pounding the retreating enemy units in the Khafajiyah region, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment and destroying other enemy targets in the southern sector of the theater of operations. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 79 killed; 3 vehicles, 4 boats and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed; and 1 fighter plane and 1 helicopter downed.

II. Our losses: 10 martyrs in all sectors.

SENATE SPEAKER RECEIVES SOVIET DELEGATION

JN302132 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Senate Speaker Bahjat at-Talhuni received this morning the deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Georgian SSR Presidium and his eight-member delegation.

During the meeting, parliamentarian affairs between the two friendly states and the bases of cooperation and coordination between them in international parliamentarian fields were discussed.

Relations of friendship linking the Royal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Soviet Union were also reviewed.

Mr at-Talhuni stressed the need to bolster meetings under the current circumstances, particularly the circumstances pertaining to the Middle East crisis and Palestinian issue.

The official and his delegation left Amman for Baghdad tonight.

SOVIET ROVING AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN302035 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Soviet roving ambassador Mr (Mikhail Sitenko) arrived in Amman tonight for an official visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with a number of government officials. In a statement upon arrival, Mr (Sitenko) noted that Jordan and the Soviet Union have long maintained good relations. He added that current developments in the Middle East area are of concern to the Soviet Union which make it necessary for Moscow to exchange views on Middle East issues with officials in the region.

Mr (Sitenko) was greeted at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

AR-RA'Y WARNS AGAINST DELAYING SUMMIT MEETING

JN281046 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Nov 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headling "Beware of Delay," AR-RA'Y writes: Arab expectations that the Arab foreign ministers will not meet before March 1982 and that the Arab summit will not convene before June or July 1982 arouse anxiety, if true, for the following reasons:

1. The delay in the foreign ministers meetings and summit convocation may affect the central importance of the Palestinian issue in the world, particularly since Israel is exerting efforts to hurt the Palestinian issue by lessening international interest in it. We are not ignoring the fact that Israel will intensify its efforts to this end in the coming period.

2. The delay might freeze the European role for a long time, awaiting an Arab consensus. The best attestation to this is the fact that the European summit, which ended yesterday, contented itself with reiterating the Venice declaration and not offering anything to put this declaration into practice. There is an intimation that the EEC used the outcome of the Fes summit as a pretext to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

3. There is a genuine danger that Israel might exploit the delay to try to gain international support for the Camp David process after interest in it has lessened and dissipated to a large extent. The best proof for this is the Israeli press call for Israeli pressure on the international level to consolidate the conviction that what happened in Fes means that the Camp David accords are the only suitable basis for establishing peace in the area.

4. It is not unlikely that Israel will increase its pressures and activities during this period to implement the so-called self-administration in the West Bank.

5. We should remember that such a delay is not one of the factors required to raise the morale of the steadfast kinfolk in the occupied territories.

AR-RA'Y concludes by saying: The anxiety regarding the date of the foreign ministers meeting and the summit conference does not mean these two meetings should be held without preparation. It means a frank call to rise quickly to the challenges, to understand the importance of the time factor in this critical period through which our nation and cause are passing and to confirm that the manner in which the Fes summit ended should not create a, quote, complex, unquote, leading to a slowdown in the Arab march, nor should it create apprehension which would keep it from going forward.

JORDAN TIMES COMMENTS ON U.S. ENVOY'S MISSION

JN301240 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Nov p 4

[Editorial: "Magic and Make-believe"]

[Text] The resumption of the mission of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib comes at a particularly awkward period in the Middle East. The separate peace agreement between Egypt and Israel is entering its last act, while the Arab world remains badly divided on the peace proposals of Saudi Arabia. The Americans continue to push ahead with their activist policies, apparently unbothered by the general hostility they continue to generate throughout much of the Arab world. The fact remains, however, that the absence of a coherent Arab political programme perpetuates the void into which the Americans continue to push themselves.

Mr. Habib is the fellow who managed to pull off a ceasefire between the PLO and Israel without either side having to formally acknowledge the existence of the other. It was, as those things go, quite a neat trick, reminiscent of the magic acts of Dr Henry Kissinger. But it was also, like all magic shows, a display of make-belive, it was a good thing that Mr. Habib could avert a war over the Syrian missiles and Israel's overflights in Lebanon. But for Mr. Habib to have frozen the situation without moving forward on the road towards an Arab-Israeli peace relegates his actions to the realm of science fiction. To suspend time is quite an impressive feat, but we expect a great deal more than that from a would-be peace-maker. Mr. Habib has always carried out his difficult task on basis that he cannot deal directly or indirectly with the PLO -- because Israel does not allow the American Government to have contacts with the PLO. We would hope that Mr. Habib's mission could nudge the Palestinians and the Israelis toward mutual recognition, leading to an eventual peace process of real substance. That seems unlikely, given the Israeli stranglehold over American policy in the Arab world. Mr Habib has our deep sympathy.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS -- Pakistani President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq today received the credentials of newly appointed Jordanian ambassador to Pakistan Majid al-Haj Hasan. [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 81 JN]

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR USSR -- Dr Trad Sa'ud al-Qadi has left Amman for the Soviet Union heading a delegation of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society on a 2-week visit at the invitation of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society. The delegation includes Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah and Muhammad Husayn az-Zu'bi. [Text] [Amman AR'RA'Y in Arabic 17 Nov 81 p 6 JN]

LEADERS MEET WITH HABIB, COMMENT ON TALKS

NC301905 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpts] The U.S. President's special envoy Philip Habib today met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

This afternoon, Habib met with [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Al-Yarzah. Yesterday, Habib met with Minister Butrus, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil. The U.S. envoy also met with Walid Junblatt this afternoon in the presence of Minister Marwan Hamadah. As usual, the U.S. envoy did not indicate to the journalists the nature of the ideas he is presenting. He only said that he will speak when his meetings with the Lebanese officials end.

After the meeting that was held today between Ambassador Habib and Prime Minister al-Wazzan in the presence of the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Morris Draper, U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon, and adviser at the U.S. Embassy Ambassador Crocker, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said:

[Begin recording] It does not appear from the talk we heard from Habib that he is carrying a specific plan. In his talk to us, he basically dealt with the question of the cease-fire in the south and the general situation. I took the opportunity to emphasize that the United States must take the necessary stands toward the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 425. This resolution provides for a complete Israeli withdrawal and the restoration of the Lebanese authority up to the recognized international borders. Moreover, I took the opportunity to emphasize that Lebanon is determined, in cooperation with its Arab brothers, to implement the resolution adopted at the Fes summit conference on southern Lebanon. By this and through this, [Lebanon is determined] to exert political, diplomatic and economic pressure on the states that support Israel or influence it in order to deter it from aggression and make it respect the resolutions of the international organizations and Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial int grity. Naturally, this comes within a joint Arab strategy approved by the conference. Furthermore, I also emphasized to the U.S. envoy that our demand for a cease-fire and adherence to it are not a means and an end but a prelude for proceeding forward in liberating the Lebanese territory from direct and indirect Israeli presence and restoring the Lebanese authority over the entire area. [end recording]

The U.S. envoy, who was accompanied by Draper and Ambassador Dillon, then met with Speaker al-As'ad. After the 1-hour meeting, Speaker al-As'ad said:

[Begin recording] We emphasized to the U.S. envoy that any attempts aimed at further freezing the crisis, whether on the level of the question of the south or on the Lebanese level in general, will only complicate matters instead of resolving them. On the basis of the fact that peace in Lebanon and the area is an international responsibility and on the basis of its responsibility, the United States should initiate a policy leading to international relaxation and to sound solutions on the level of the Middle Eastern area. When this is done the Lebanese crisis will be automatically solved. [end recording]

After meeting with Ambassador Habib, Walid Junblatt made a statement in which he said: We agreed on something important, namely, the need to adhere to the cease-fire. I insisted that the cease-fire should be consolidated by political reform if a permanent cease-fire is to be reached in the Lebanese arena.

AL-ASAD VOWS TO DESTROY MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DENS

JN301957 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, telephoned His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad about the ugly crime carried out by the treacherous Muslim Brotherhood gang against innocent citizens in the Al-Azbakiyah quarter of Damascus. Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi expressed in his name and on behalf of the Libyan Arab people anger and harsh condemnation of this crime, stressing that the perpetrators can only be blasphemous criminals and that such a criminal deed only serves Israel and imperialism, further confirming the agentry of the Muslim Brotherhood for Israel and imperialism.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed his sympathy and condolences as well as those of the Libyan Arab people to the wounded and to the families of the martyrs.

President Hafiz al-Asad stressed to Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that the criminal Muslim Brotherhood gang gives daily proof of its agentry and more evidence that it is merely serving the imperialist and Zionist powers in the world. President al-Asad emphasized that our people in Syria look with disgust and contempt at this agent gang and that they are determined to pursue this gang and destroy its dens abroad.

AL-BA'TH LINKS AREA INCIDENTS TO HABIB MISSION

JN011020 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0818 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 1 Dec (SANA) -- In a comment today, AL-BA'TH says that with U.S. envoy Philip Habib's arrival in the region, the United States is now clearing the way by heightening tension, deepening Arab differences and spreading an atmosphere of chaos and crime, especially in those countries leading the Arab confrontation against the U.S. plan.

After a period of relative calm, the paper explains, fatal explosions are back in nationalist areas in Lebanon and Muslim Brotherhood gands are again coordinating operations with isolationist elements in Lebanon and criminal organs in areas outside Syria which are used as bases for planning operations. Contacts have also been established with Israeli organs that engage in acts of terrorism against Arabs, the paper adds.

AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. envoy had barely set foot at Beirut airport when action was already being taken according to prior instructions. Do the dispatchers of Habib think that they can achieve now, and in these circumstances, what they failed to achieve on previous occasions?

Concluding its comment, the paper asserts: Syria will receive Habib with the same clear stand it held during his first mission. Nothing has changed in the region despite what Washington thinks. Therefore, the Syrian decision, which will not be shaken by any pressure or acts of terrorism, remains unchanged. This time, however, Syria will not tolerate the question of relations among the various criminal organizations -- the implementing, the planning and the go-between organizations -- no matter how far away they are. They will not escape punishment, which will be fair, direct and reach out to all those involved.

TISHRIN Accusation

NC300905 Paris AFP in English 0840 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Damascus, 30 Nov (AFP) -- TISHRIN accused the banned right-wing Muslim Brotherhood, blamed by authorities yesterday, of timing the attack to coincide with the arrival in Beirut of U.S. envoy Philip Habib for a new round of mediation in the Lebanese problem. The newspaper described the attack as an attempt to force Syria to "capitulate to American-Zionist plans."

TISHRIN: MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD WANTS REVENGE

JN301028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Homeland Will Avenge Its Martyrs" TISHRIN comments on the Muslim Brotherhood gang's crime in Al-Azbakiyah quarter yesterday. The paper says: What more can be said about the outrageous massacre Israel's agents committed against our steadfast people in this country and how can we describe the crime after citizens viewed on television some of its abominable results? Perhaps citizens, who experienced anger and hatred yesterday witnessing the results of the massacre, have realized the reasons and motives of this atrocious crime and have stored in their memory more evidence of the barbarism of those who planned it and the inhumanity of those who carried it out.

Inspired by their masters in Tel Aviv and Washington, the killers sought to take revenge on our people, who have rejected humiliation, defeat, capitulation and all the schemes and courses that lead to them.

The choice of Damascus for this crime is neither coincidental nor taken haphazardly. This choice has more than one meaning and objective. Those who chose Damascus for the site of this treacherous operation aimed at striking at the heroic masses of this city, a city from which came decisions concerning all that is related to Syria and the entire Arab region.

From the beginning Damascus and its masses have stated their opposition to agents and traitors. Damascus has reiterated on more than one occasion the stand it adopted after the glorious corrective movement, that of rallying around the historic leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, who embodies an important and great stage of our Arab nation's struggle.

Damascus has remained loyal to the leader of the march on more than one occasion and in the most difficult and dangerous stages in the history of Syria and the region.

It was necessary, therefore, for Syria's enemies to take revenge on Syria and the masses in Damascus. That's why the agents chose Damascus for carrying out their abominable crime believing that this steadfast city will change its stands and veer from its adopted course. The criminals and their masters, however, have forgotten that the magnitude of past conspiracies and the extent of the fierce imperialist-Zionist onslaught against our people have increased our people's determination to pursue the course of pride and dignity laid down by struggler Hafiz al-Asad. They have also forgotten that our people have declared their struggle and that a handful of hirelings who commit crimes in our people's name cannot stop our people, because the militant people are well aware that the struggle is a fateful one, but not an honest and sacred struggle where the martyrs or sacrifices can be avoided. Yesterday's martyrs are not the victims of a transient, obnoxious crime committed by criminal hands. They are the martyrs of the homeland and the cause. They are flares of pride and dignity.

Let the criminals, whether the planners or actors, know that Syria will not deviate one iota from its principled and firm pan-Arab stands and will pursue the struggle until inevitable victory is achieved regardless of the magnitude of the conspiracy or the cost.

STRATEGIC COOPERATION ACCORD REACHED WITH U.S.

TA302110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Israel and the United States reached agreement on strategic cooperation this evening and the memorandum of understanding on this will be signed tonight in Washington. The agreement was reached in the course of a lengthy conversation Minister Sharon held this evening with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Our correspondent, Shalom Qital, reports now from the Pentagon.

This is a short document, extending over 3 and 1/2 pages. It is entitled: Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States and the Government of Israel on Strategic Cooperation.

The preamble states that this memorandum strengthens the relations of friendship between the United States and Israel on the basis of the existing friendly relations. The parties decided on a framework for the continuation of the consultations on cooperation to fortify their national security by deterring external threats to the entire region.

Following is a summation of the articles. The first of six reads: The two countries recognize the need to strengthen their bilateral strategic cooperation to create deterrence in the face of Soviet threats on the region.

The second article: The strategic cooperation will become effective in the following ways: military cooperation between the parties as will be agreed upon between them in the future; by joint military exercises in the future -- including naval and air maneuvers in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean; cooperation in establishing and maintaining joint preparedness [konenut] actions for both countries.

The third article: A joint coordinating council will be set up, as will working groups that will discuss the implementation of the agreement and joint preparatory actions including access to maintenance installations, infrastructure, cooperation in research and development and construction work, and trade in military goods.

The fourth article: The agreement will become effective after the necessary procedures have been implemented in both countries. If one party thinks the agreement should be abrogated, it will be able to do so by announcing this 6 months in advance.

The fifth article: Nothing in the document will contradict previous bilateral agreements.

The sixth article: Nothing in the memorandum will contradict the UN Charter. The two countries declare their desire to live in peace with all the countries in the region.

In addition, there is also a joint statement by the two ministers -- Weinberger and Sharon. It again emphasizes that this is an agreement between the two governments on strategic cooperation. The agreement is aimed at making it possible for both countries to take action through cooperation in granting each other military aid to face threats to the safety of the entire region. Here there is an addition not included in the document, that says that these are not only threats by the Soviet Union, but also by forces controlled by the Soviets, threatening the region from outside it.

The joint statement also says that Ari'el Sharon is inviting Caspar Weinberger to visit Israel next year. Weinberger received the invitation with pleasure, the statement says. The two also discussed military aid to Israel, including means to help the Israeli industry's competitiveness in winning bids in the United States.

One more detail: The joint coordinating council on the strategic cooperation will convene in about 6 weeks, in January 1982. This is Shalom Qital at the Pentagon in Washington.

Sharon Interviewed

TA010610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon interviewed by U.S. correspondent Shalom Qital on 1 December -- place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Sharon] In my opinion, Israel got most of what it wanted through this agreement [on strategic cooperation].

[Qital] What were these wishes? What was it that Israel wanted and got?

[Answer] Well, the agreement is very broad. It deals with the military sphere, it contains political aspects, and it deals with the economic field. It is undoubtedly a broad agreement rather than a narrow one. All the glum forecasts that we were being offered, and were about to sign, a narrow agreement have been dispelled. The agreement is indeed broad. It establishes a schedule of meetings for the working teams which will begin carrying out their duties next January.

The main points forming a stumbling block were successfully overcome in the last few days. These points referred to the main issue, that of reciprocity. This issue was very important to us and it is now covered in the agreement. The second point was that we saw it necessary for the agreement to deal with Soviet threats to peace in the region and in Israel, as well as with the threats posed by Soviet-controlled forces. This point is also fully covered in the agreement. Another point was the issue of terminating the agreement. We demanded that a period of time should be specified when one of the sides could decide to terminate the agreement. This point was accomplished. We wanted to have a definite schedule for the beginning of the discussions, and as I have said, the discussions will begin next January.

We certainly wanted to expand the issue to include economic questions, mainly the expansion of our security and other industrial exports and, indeed, this question has been included in the agreement. So, after actually getting most of what we wanted in the draft we submitted -- I want to stress the word most, for as in all negotiations not everything can be achieved -- we accomplished most of our wishes. We were able to sign the agreement. We intended to sign the agreement. This agreement has far-reaching implications. It is the basis for the establishment of a different set of relationships with the United States. It contains some frameworks which will undoubtedly be filled in the course of the coming months and years through a process of continuous development. In my opinion, this agreement places Israel on an entirely different level and rank than the one it had been on to date concerning strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States.

[Question] Mr Sharon, you spoke about reciprocity and about Soviet-controlled forces. For example, if there are Soviet tanks in Syria and Libya, does this mean that the United States will assist Israel in a war against Libya or Syria?

[Answer] Well, already in our visit here in September, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin made it clear to the Americans that this is Israel's traditional position: that Israel has never and will never ask U.S. soldiers, airmen, marines or any other kind of force to participate in the defense of Israel's existence or in its defensive wars against Arab countries. The State of Israel is capable of handling the Arab countries, if indeed war breaks out -- we hope a war will not break out.

With the largest Arab country, at least, we signed a peace treaty which we believe will continue to grow. However, if a situation evolves where Israel will have to fight a defensive war against Arab forces, Israel is capable -- and God forbid that Israel should ever reach the day when it will not be able to cope with such threats on its own. We cannot afford and we will never afford ourselves such a thing, and this is known.

Begin, Ehrlich Comment

TA010622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0514 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] It must be noted that the following are initial reactions, since the memorandum was only signed a few hours ago. It has been reported from the prime minister's office that Menahem Begin regards the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the United States as a very important move toward the strengthening of Israel's security and toward strengthening its political status in the world. The strengthening of relations between Israel and the United States is a positive and vital thing in itself. However, it also has far-reaching implications for Israel's relations with other countries.

As for two critical comments against the memorandum of understanding -- first, that by signing the agreement Israel is placing itself alongside the United States against the Soviet Union; and, second, that the agreement is drawn in very general terms -- the prime minister's office somewhat ironically noted: Israel's relations with the Soviet Union have been so good to date and here comes the memorandum of understanding to upset them. Israel has never hidden the fact that it regards itself as an inseparable part of the free world and, as such, it has always been proud of being an ally of the United States. The document signed further affirms these points.

This morning we asked Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich to comment on the memorandum of understanding with the United States.

[Begin Ehrlich recording] We are not placing ourselves against the Soviet Union. We simply want to defend ourselves in the face of the danger posed by the Soviet Union. It has been our experience in the past that when a military conflict erupted between Israel and the Arab states, the Soviet Union always stood beside the Arab countries and provided them with arms, and more than once (?threatened) manpower. This is an act of defense rather than one of offense. This is for the existence and security of Israel rather than against the Soviet Union. This is the first document of its kind since relations between Israel and the United States were established. This is a first step. It should be welcomed as a first step; further steps will come in the future. [end recording]

Eban Against Mentioning USSR

TA010935 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Yesterday MK Abba Eban warned Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir against a specific mention of the Soviet Union in the strategic document due to be signed between the United States and Israel.

Eban explained to Shamir that no international document signed by the United States, including the charters for the founding of NATO, SEATO and CENTO, states that it is aimed against the Soviet Union. The treaty for the foundation of NATO states that the pact was established against the "possibilities of an attack from any direction." Similar indirect formulations are included in treaties for the establishment of other pacts in which the United States is involved.

The 1975 Israel-U.S. memorandum of understanding states that the United States will give aid to Israel against a threat from "any world force." It is only in the Eisenhower Doctrine from the 1950's that a more unequivocal formulation appears, stating that the United States will defend against "aggression by any country dominated by communism."

As far as is known, Minister Shamir was surprised at hearing Eban's comments. From his reaction it transpires that he did not at all know that Israel is to become the first country in the history of modern diplomacy to bind itself in an official treaty with the United States stating specifically that it is aimed against the Soviet Union.

RABIN REQUESTS DELAY IN SIGNING STRATEGIC ACCORD

TA010729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Last night, immediately after Israeli radio transmitted the report about the signing of the memorandum of understanding, the Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee called a meeting where they made a decision calling on the government to abstain from a hasty signing, as they phrased it. The Alignment also demanded that its members be given the opportunity to study the document before it is signed. Our correspondent Razi Barqay is interviewing Mk Yitzhaq Rabin on the telephone.

[Barqay] Mr Rabin, good morning.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Question] Your urgent meeting tells me that you are not pleased with this memorandum of understanding. Perhaps you can tell us briefly why?

[Answer] As far as we know and according to what has been published to date, I regard this memorandum of understanding as deviating from the basic principles which the State of Israel has been following to date in its relations with the United States and in the independent position of the IDF, being the army for the defense of Israel, as its name denotes. For the first time, a document signed between Israel and the United States mentions the Soviet Union as an enemy in a military context, beyond the direct defense of the State of Israel. True, the Soviet Union has in the last 26 years adopted a hostile policy toward Israel. There is a significant difference between a political alignment in the face of Soviet intentions in the area, a defensive alignment for the defense of Israel if, God forbid, the Soviet Union should try and act against us, and between an Israeli undertaking within a military context against the Soviet Union and its activities in the region.

Secondly, in my opinion -- even if it is not yet totally clear what it is all about -- there is a reference to the possibility of activating the IDF in missions which do not concern the immediate defense of Israel and its interests. I believe that it will be a serious mistake to agree in principle to activate the IDF beyond the missions of protecting the state and its interests.

Thirdly, it is not clear to me what the compensation will be. It is not clear to me what is new in Israel's relations with the United States concerning cooperation on intelligence issues, evaluations, economic and military assistance and so forth. Let me add that if anybody believes that this is a new commitment to prevent a direct military Soviet action against Israel -- well, such an element is already provided by the memorandum of understanding signed in 1975.

[Question] Mr Rabin, your claims have already been countered by the prime minister's office which stated that our relations with the Soviet Union were not exactly bright. It also stated that during the Alignment's terms in power, Israel was more than an ally of the United States. Well, it is not they [the Likud government] that turned us into a U.S. satellite.

[Answer] It is not a matter of being or not being a U.S. satellite. We never, not even indirectly, undertook any commitment to activate the IDF for a purpose other than for the direct defense of the State of Israel. Sometime, for example in September 1970, in the wake of an appeal made to us based on a specific situation concerning an Israeli interest, operative strategic cooperation which also contained a military possibility did occur. However, a commitment in principle and in advance -- never.

[Question] To conclude, what is the Alignment demanding to be done? You issued an announcement saying that you are demanding an examination of the document. Maybe after you have read the document you will be satisfied and you will agree to join another consensus with the Likud.

[Answer] I believe that in such a case and based on what I know to date, as far as depicting the Soviet Union as a target for a military operation by the IDF in the region [incomplete sentence as heard]. Secondly, if the agreement contains a commitment in principle to activate the IDF beyond the defense of the State of Israel and its vital interests, I believe that, based on these claims, we will demand that the Knesset adopt a decision stating that so long as the document has not been endorsed by the Knesset it will not be valid.

[Question] Yitzhaq Rabin, good morning to you and thank you very much.

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALIGNMENT

TA011206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] The Alignment faction has submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government in the wake of the signing on the memorandum of understanding with the United States. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that these motions [as heard] will be presumably discussed tomorrow in the afternoon and that all the factions of the house are going to great length to call in their members to be present at the vote.

Our correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami reports that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has cut short his visit in the United States and will return today to Israel in order to attend the discussion and the vote.

EDITORIALS COMMENT ON STRATEGIC COOPERATION

TA011005 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Dec 81

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] Both papers write about the signing on the memorandum of understanding with the United States.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT draws a slight analogy between Minister Sharons' trip to Washington and the journey by Austrian Chancellor Schuschnigg to Berchtesgaden, Hitler's Eagles' Nest in the Bavarian mountains, before Austria surrendered to Nazi Germany.

According to the paper, the drama of this affair is that a minority in the government decided to surrender without consulting the majority.

MA'ARIV writes that the essence and significance of the memorandum of understanding are not clear. However, we are now signatories on an agreement explicitly aimed at the Soviet Union and from now on the latter will regard us as formal allies of the United States whereas Washington still sees us as a client with whom it is ashamed to be seen in public.

APPROVAL OF SINAI FORCE DECLARATION EXPECTED

TA301429 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Israel wants changes to be made in the proposed draft of the joint Israeli-U.S. declaration of principles whose purpose it is to bring European countries into the Sinai force. However, sources in the Israeli Government have told foreign correspondents in Jerusalem that it is already clear that Israel agrees to the proposed declaration and the changes it wants are minor ones. These changes will be given to U.S. Secretary of State Haig and after his reply is received the government will again discuss the proposed document. The sources said that if the declaration is published, the European countries will be confronted with three alternatives: to announce that they adhere to their previous declarations, and then they will not be brought into the Sinai force; to accept the principles in the declaration, or to accept the declaration without commenting and this would mean that they agree to the principles in it.

The sources emphasized that the Europeans are not being asked to cancel their previous declarations. They also reported that there would be sections from the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty in the Israeli-U.S. declaration of principles involving the establishment of the multinational force in Sinai.

PRESS EDITORIALS COMMENT ON MFO DECISION

TA011002 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 1 Dec 81

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HATZOFE writes that the decision to veto the participation of European troops in the Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] certainly atones for Israel's hurt national pride but does not solve current political problems. It may be in Israel's interest that the MFO carry political and military weight rather than merely being composed of a few countries. The new step the government took when it conducted negotiations on the principles for participation in the MFO was a moderate and logical move.

HA'ARETZ says it seems we ultimately came to accept Mr Haig's opinion which, from the political point of view, determines that the Europeans should participate in the MFO because they would thus be actually joining the Camp David process. Was it necessary to initially make such a fuss and then, nevertheless, contemplate the opinion of the U.S. administration? One may believe that the fuss was unnecessary. We could have said ourselves that the practical side of the statement made by the four European countries is more important than its declarative side.

However, there is also room for other opinions. It may be that the firm protest caused Mr Haig to explicitly define the source of authority of the MFO and that he would have not done so had we not raised such a hell. The Cabinet will again discuss the matter after it has received the U.S. reply on our proposed changes. Then, Mr Haig will have to straighten out the remaining differences of opinion between the United States and the four West European countries.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that yesterday's Cabinet decision regarding the participation of the four European countries in the MFO paves the way for a dignified retreat and to an Israeli half-hearted agreement to something it had been fervently opposed to until 1 or 2 days ago. The Israeli Government will be well advised to forego its rigid position regarding the stationing of the MFO in the Sinai. Any expression of rigidity and extremism in our political positions only strengthens the anti-Israeli front in the international arena, bolsters the positions of the Arabs in the world and chases away the few friends we have left in the world. One such friend is France, which is also included among the four European countries.

The Jerusalem POST, writes that there can be little question but that the Cabinet sanctioned a retreat from the official hard line on European participation, which had won virtually national endorsement. Now that Mr Begin has seen it proper to backtrack, the Cabinet is dutifully following his lead. It is thus unfair to describe the Cabinet as unbending or obtuse, as the paper phrases it. Whenever Mr Begin cracks the whip, whether to announce a tough policy or to violate the Sabbath, the Cabinet will bend to his will. It is a presidential system in all but name, perhaps it would be healthier for the ministers to acknowledge it.

HADDAD INVITES HABIB TO VISIT SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA301803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Nov 81

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Maj Sa'd Haddad has invited special U.S. Middle East envoy Philip Habib, to visit tomorrow the areas under his control in southern Lebanon. Habib has been in Beirut since last night.

[Begin Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a recording] According to reports from Beirut, Philip Habib came on this current shuttle trip -- the fourth in the last 6 months -- with a U.S. draft proposal for a solution of the crisis in Lebanon. The plan includes, among other things, a return of the southern regions controlled by Major Haddad to the Lebanese Government's sovereignty. This is Habib's main mission in the talks he has been holding in Beirut since yesterday. However, a lot of questions loom now over his entire mission to the area. One must remember that Habib arrived in the region with the aim of bringing about the removal of the missiles Syria had stationed in Al-Biqa', but even as late as a few days ago Damascus announced that it is determined not to move them out.

There is no foreseeable reason why Habib would today succeed in what he has so far failed to achieve. On the contrary, the only success Habib has so far scored was the cease-fire in Lebanon -- and this success was achieved to a large extent due to Saudi Arabia's intervention.

A day after the Saudi failure to pass Amir Fahd's eight-point plan in the Arab summit in Fes -- a failure that led to the break in the meeting only 4 and 1/2 hours after it opened -- it is highly questionable whether Saudi Arabia is in a position to apply any kind of pressure both on the Syrians and the PLO, without which no national conciliation would be possible as a solution in Lebanon.

And, as though to pour more oil onto this fire, the commander of the Christian Phalangists, Bashir al-Jumayyil, organized a welcome ceremony for Habib in the form of a declaration demanding the removal of the Syrain force from Lebanon the the disarming of the PLO. Now, after having lived up to others' expectations -- at least in public -- by announcing that he was severing the ties between the Lebanese christians and Israel -- he is now presenting demands everyone knows neither the Syrians nor the PLO will accept.

Habib is to depart for Damascus tomorrow morning and to Riyadh on Thursday, before arriving in Israel on Sunday. If in Damascus there is hardly a chance for something more than pleasantries, in Saudi Arabia he will be able to learn -- or at the least to sense -- whether the Saudis have abandoned their plan, which ran aground in Fes, or whether they intend to continue to push it. At any rate, it is clear that they will not be able to do this without massive and serious support from those who had sent Habib -- those in the White House in Washington. [end recording]

Francis Rizq, the spokesman for the Christian militia in southern Lebanon, again called on U.S. mediator Philip Habib today to come and visit southern Lebanon. Only in the south, Rizq says, is it possible to find a way to reach a peaceful solution for all of Lebanon.

WEST BANK VILLAGE LEAGUES ALLOWED TO USE WEAPONS

TA300526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has acceded to the request of the leaders of the village leagues in the Hebron area and the Bethlehem district to allow them to use weapons for their defense. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus, reports that the defense establishment, with the participation of all the elements dealing with the territories, held a debate at the end of last week over the issue of equipping the farmers with weapons. It was decided then to allow the village leagues to set up groups to protect their key personalities. The village leagues requested that they be allowed to use weapons after the leader of the Ramallah area Village League, Yusuf al-Khatib, was murdered.

Our correspondent has learned that by approving the request of the farmers the defense minister wishes to emphasize that Israel will strengthen the moderate bodies in the territories as well as those who will agree to conduct a dialogue with Israel. At the same time, instructions were issued to step up measures against those collaborating with the PLO. Our correspondent has further learned that the defense minister intends to resume the series of talks with personalities form all circles in the territories with the goal of conducting a dialogue with them to explain Israel's policy.

KLEINER REPLACES MOSHE ARENS IN KNESSET

TA301603 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Succeeding MK Moshe Arens in the Knesset will be Mikha'el Kleiner of Herut, the person who follows him on the Likud list. Kleiner was the chairman of the students' union of Tel Aviv University and today he is the director-general of the Department of Education and Culture in the Zionist Federation.

POST: 10-MONTH TRADE STATISTICS ISSUED

TA01905 Jerusalem POST in English 1 Dec 81 p 8

[Text] Israel's trade deficit for January-October 1981, at $2,277 million, was virtually the same as that in the first 10 months of 1980, which came to $2,295 million. This emerges from estimates released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Imports as well as exports were affected by the sharp contraction of the diamond industry. Imports of rough diamonds shrank from $946 million last year to $409 million in January-October 1981. Exports of polished diamonds fell from $1,201 million in 1980 to $910 million this year.

The general expansion of imports was somewhat offset by a slightly smaller outlay on the import of fuel. In January-October 1980 the fuel bill was $1,903 million. This contrasted to $1,802 million in 1981. Fuel accounts for some 28 per cent of the total import of all goods.

When diamonds, ships and planes are excluded from the trade balance, there was a rise of 7 per cent in imports, exports, and in the trade deficit. However, the average monthly trade deficit, adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, was in the last three months some 25 per cent lower than in the first six months of the year, and 10 per cent below the monthly average of the second half of 1980.

Total net imports in January-October 1981 were $6,462 million, as against $6,565 million in the same period last year. But when diamonds, fuel, ships and planes are excluded, there was an increase of 13 percent -- from $3,705 million in 1980 to $4,192 million in 1981. Of the $487 million increase of imports other than diamonds, fuel, ships and planes, $195 million was accounted for by the 48 per cent increase in the import of consumer goods, and another $280 million by higher imports of raw materials and semi-manufactures for domestic industry. The 11 per cent increase in imports of inputs thus nearly paralleled the rise in imports of finished consumer goods.

By contrast, imports of investment goods remained nearly the same -- $806 million this year as against $793 million in 1980, a rise of 1.8 per cent, which was only the result of higher imports of ships and planes. Without the latter, imports of investment goods fell by 4.3 per cent.

Total net exports in January-October this year were $4,185 million, $85 million less than in the same period last year, but the contraction was mainly due to the fall in exports of polished diamonds. Exports other than diamonds increased from $2,781 million in January-October 1980 to $3,061 million this year -- a rise of 10 per cent.

The increase in exports showed an uneven pattern between industrial sectors. While exports of textiles, apparel and leather goods, rubber and plastics, and chemicals contracted between 7 and 19 per cent, exports of mineral products increased by 18 per cent, and exports of the metalworking industry, including machinery and electronics, went up by 21 per cent. A modest 4.5 per cent increase was also recorded for agricultural products, this was almost entirely due to higher citrus exports.

BRIEFS

POVERTY STATISTICS -- The number of families living in poverty grew during 1978-80 as the allowances paid by the National Insurance Institute were eroded by inflation, a recent NII study shows. This reverses a trend towards greater equality in income distrubtion that began in the early 1970's. The study revealed that in 1980 NII payments raised only 44 percent of poor families above the poverty line, while 10 years ago the proportion raised was 80 percent. The NII defines a "poverty family" as one whose income before receiving NII allowances is less than 40 percent of the average income. The extent of poverty after NII payments in 1980 was twice what it was in 1977, with the increase in the spread of pvoerty affecting mainly large families. The NII has taken steps this year to correct this trend by updating allowances more frequently to keep pace with inflation. Further progress will be possible next year, the NII said, when the minimum income law goes into effect. [Text] [Jerusalem POST in English 8 Nov 81 p 2 TA]

ALGERIA

FRENCH PRESIDENT ARRIVES 30 NOV FOR 2-DAY VISIT

LD301316 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpt] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived at Houari Boumediene International Airport at 1000 today for an official visit to Algeria that will last 2 days. He was welcomed by President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party, and by members of the Political Bureau, ministers, senior state and party officials and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Algeria.

After listening to the two countries' national anthems, the two presidents inspected the honor guard. Algeria's guest then shook hands with those who had come to welcome him, led by members of the Political Bureau and senior state and party officials, members of the diplomatic corps and the French community in Algeria. Following that, the two presidents went to the VIP lounge where President Francois Mitterrand stated: First of all, I want to express my appreciation of Algeria and its president and to greet your Algerian brothers who live and work in France and whose contribution to my country's prosperity deserves gratitude and respect. France and Algeria are able to overcome the pains of the past and I am confident that they are awaiting the time when the obstacles are overcome and the misunderstandings which have so long obstructed their relations are removed. From now on, they can consolidate their rapprochement and establish their friendship in accordance with a new vision -- the trust with which the enrichment and diversification of relations between the two people can feed dialogue and cooperation among nations.

The French president went on to say: This is the trust I came to express to Algeria. It is the trust of our insistence on rejecting the logic of confrontation in international relations; it is the trust of the Algerian nation in its continuing struggle for its development and for the creation of a new international order; and it is our trust in our ability to establish new equitable relations between the North and the South.

The French president added: France and Algeria are capable of defeating the pains of the past and forgetting them. The French president ended his statement by saying: I express my wishes for the prosperity of the two countries in the shadow of French friendship for the Algerians and the Algerians' friendship for the French.

The presidential motorcade left the airport for the El-Alia cemetery. Following the motorcade's arrival at 1030, the guest laid a wreath at the grave of the late president, Houari Boumediene.

Mitterrand Interview

LD301948 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 30 Nov (APS) -- Algerian-French natural gas cooperation, the elimination of hotbeds of tension, especially in the Middle East and the Western Sahara, the removal of foreign bases and the problem of Chad -- all these major topics were dealt with by French President Francois Mitterrand in an interview granted the daily EL-MOUDJAHID.

The French president first explained France's attitude to certain international problems, mentioning initiatives undertaken by his country. He said: "We never deny assistance to countries which need it if it is to guarantee their independence and security." He continued: "We reject any claim that our assistance becomes interference in the internal affairs of these countries." The French president confirmed in this context that "distinction in such cases is difficult many times, but we remain vigilant."

Regarding cooperation between the two countries in natural gas, the French president pointed to "the talks being held to find economic terms acceptable to both sides." Concerning the elimination of hotbeds of tension and the removal of foreign bases, the French president said that "there is some kind of [word indistinct] which colors his country's attitude toward the settlement of problems with the concerned sides, stressing that every country should remain its own master." Regarding the Palestine problem, the French president confirmed that "it is impossible to find a solution to this problem without the Palestinians, explaining that a solution to the Palestine problem can only be achieved at the United Nations and through the recognized negotiations."

The French president was asked about the chances of France contributing to the solution of the Saharan peoblem. He pointed out that "he has taken a stand in favor of the Saharan people's right to self-determination, confirming that "in the event of France being recognized as a party capable of making an active contribution, it will try to be so." The French president explained "that his country did not wish to occupy the place of the concerned parties." Then he said "it believes that the Saharan people have the right to self-determination, like all African countries which had exercised this right within the context of decolonization."

Concerning the problem of Chad, President Mitterrand said "that his country provided important aid to Chad, explaining that the French soldiers there were not concerned with the internal affairs of Chad. We do not adhere to an aggressive attitude toward any person or neighboring country and we base our attitudes on those of the OAU and the United Nations.

First Round of Talks

LD302126 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] At 1630 today, the Algerian-French talks were resumed in private at the presidential palace. Afterwards, the foreign ministers of the two countries, Mohamed Ben Yahia and Claude Cheysson, joined the talks.

The first round of talks took place between the two presidents at People's Palace and lasted 55 minutes.

AFP Account

NC301932 Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Algiers, 30 Nov (AFP) -- French President Francois Mitterrand arrived here today to suggest a "contract of trust" between France and its former colony on new bases of cooperation and mutual understanding.

Mr Mitterrand said he had come to show French trust in the Algerian nation and its ceaseless struggle to develop itself and establish a new world order, as well as "our shared determination to reject confrontation in international relations."

The French president's first talks with his Algerian counterpart Chadli Bendjedid lasted an hour. They covered international problems, including the Middle East, Chad and the Western Sahara.

The talks resumed after lunch with Foreign Ministers Claude Cheysson of France and Mohammed Ben Yahia of Algeria, and their respective ambassadors in Algiers and Paris.

Bilateral problems covered included the return of archives covering the colonial period from France to Algeria and the price of Algerian natural gas supplied to France. Both presidents were said to be seeking to give a boost to their economic and industrial cooperation.

Unprecedentedly for an official visit to Algeria, Mr Mitterrand's airport speech was transmitted live by the Algerian broadcasting services.

BRIEFS

ALGERIA-USSR COOPERATION COMMITTEE -- The works of the 7th session of the joint committee of the Algerian-Soviet cooperation started yesterday in Algiers under the chairmanship of Mr Yala, Politburo member, minister of finances, and Mr Skachkov, CPSU Central Committee member, president of the Committee of State for External Relations. The present session aims at giving a new impulse to Algerian-Soviet cooperation. It will enable both parties to concretely examine ways and means to develop and reaffirm it notably in the field of hydraulics, energy, mines, iron and steel and railways transports. The Algerian-Soviet economic cooperation started in the wake of Algeria's independence and continued to develop till including most of the sectors of social and economic activity. On the industrial plan, the Algerian-Soviet cooperation reached several achievements. The iron and steel plant of El Hadjar is a significant example. The energetic cooperation will be reinforced thanks to the relaunch of the project at the gas - pipeline Hassi-Rmel el Rar (400 km), [word indistinct] other fields will be developed thanks to the Algerian Soviet cooperation. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1014 GMT 23 Nov 81 LD]

LIBYA

ADEN PACT INFORMATION MINISTERS CONCLUDE MEETING

LD290816 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] The information ministers of the countries of the Aden Pact for Friendship and Cooperation Between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the PDRY and the Ethiopian Socialist Republic concluded their meetings in Tripoli yesterday evening. At the conclusion of the meeting, a joint communique was published, in which the items of the joint communique was published, in which the items of the joint communique of the political committee of the Aden Pact at its extraordinary meeting in Addis Ababa were confirmed.

The communique stressed the necessity of increasing cooperation and coordination between information apparatus in the three countries and the continued exposing of colonialist (?plans) aimed at (?poisoning) public opinion and at a military imperialist invasion. It also stressed the importance of arousing the masses to (?overcome) the instruments of domination, exploitation and [word indistinct] and to strengthen the confidence of the masses in themselves and their (?awareness) in confronting colonialism, imperialism and reaction, and to support the people's struggle against imperialism, colonialism and Zionism.

The communique stressed that the information media are a progressive instrument used by the masses to confront their enemies and the information apparatus in the three countries is an instrument to mobilize all active forces in supporting freedom and progress everywhere. The communique added that any agreement was reached on coordinating the information efforts between the three countries to abort imperialist plans and to confront hostile plans, including the U.S. military maneuvers in the Arab region, and coordinating the stands of the three countries in the international arena and bolstering good neighborliness, peace and cooperation in accordance with the charters and principles of the regional and international organizations to which they belong.

AL-QADHDHAFI PHONES AL-ASAD ON DAMASCUS 'CRIME'

LD301904 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Nov (JANA) -- A telephone contact took place today between the brother commander of the revolution and Syria President Hafiz al-Asad. They discussed the current situation in the Arab region, the failure of the Fes Arab summit conference and the need to continue tc confront the imperialist-Zionist offensive against the Arab nation.

They also discussed yesterday's barbaric, bestial crime committed by the criminal elements of the Muslim Brotherhood at Al-Azbakiyah quarter in Damascus, in which many children, women and elderly were killed. The brother commander strongly denounced this barbaric act by the reactionary plotters, members of the Muslim Brotherhood, who used religion as a cover for committing bestial and barbaric acts.

The brother commander of the revolution affirmed that this senseless crime against the innocent people of Syria reflects the bloody and criminal characteristics of all the subversive activities and moves made by this agent clique, which are aimed at harming the steadfastness of the Syrian people in the face of the Zionist enemy, imperialism and reaction.

MAURITANIA

REPORTS ON HAYDALA INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

'Reconciliation With Morocco'

AB281554 Paris AFP in French 1530 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Lt Col Mohamed K. Ould Haydala, Mauritanian head of state, said his country is ready for a reconciliation with Morocco on the condition that it implements all the provisions in the agreement signed between the two countries in At-Ta'if.

In a message to the nation on Mauritania's 21st independence anniversary on Saturday, the Mauritanian head of state said that to close the ranks of the Arab nation, Mauritania is ready to come back to the spirit of the At-Ta'if accord, signed under the auspices of Saudi Arabia, on condition that Morocco agrees to implement all provisions of the accord.

According to observers, the Mauritanian head of state is referring to the part of the accord concerning the presence of opponents to his regime in Morocco.

Lt Col Ould Haydala also reaffirmed Mauritania's position of strict neutrality in the Western Sahara conflict and blames Morocco for trying to put an end to this position by drawing it into the war.

He also said that recent developments in the situation in the Western Sahara show a certain desire of some big powers to internationalize the conflict, making reference to the recent visit to Morocco by an American military delegation and to statements by American leaders on the increase of American military aid to Morocco.

Col Ould Haydala refuted once again Moroccan accusations that Mauritania had served as the base for the Polisario troops who attacked Guelta Zemmur in the Western Sahara last October. He invited Morocco to return to reason and to work within the framework of OAU and UN resolutions on the Western Sahara so that peace and harmony may reign again in the Maghreb region.

Finally, the Mauritanian chief of state renewed his support for liberation movements in Palestine, South Africa and Namibia.

In addition, Mauritania's 21st independence anniversary was marked by a large civilian and military parade viewed by the nation's high authorities and the diplomatic corps.

State of Nation

LD290140 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, this morning made an important and comprehensive speech on the state of the nation on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of national independence.

The speech touched upon the financial and economic situation of the country, the social achievements and government efforts to improve the administration to bring the court system closer to people seeking justice and to consolidate independence by improving the armed forces.

The president ended his speech with some (?clear) remarks on the country's foreign policy. The head of state said that our people struggled on all fronts, faced many difficulties including some resulting from the expansionism of certain neighbors, and succeeded thanks to its creative genius. It managed to make its mark at the Arab, African and international levels and [words indistinct] the country.

[Words indistinct] our country through the reconstruction of its economy and the restoration of cultural and spiritual values, depending on its own resources and on the [word indistinct] aid it received from its allies had it not been for (?overspending) and mismanagement during the first (?17) years of independence. The work of the Military Committee for National Salvation and the government since 10 July (?1978) consisted in improving the situation on the political, economic and social levels.

The head of state ended his review with some remarks on various aspects of foreign policy.

He said there is great hope we will be able, through [words indistinct], to reduce the deficit of the budget to 2 billion ouiyahs, despite expenses which cannot be reduced. [passage indistinct]

SUDAN

MIRGHANI SUGGESTS CHAD-SUDAN BORDER COMMITTEE

JN301104 Khartoum SUNA in English 1043 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Nov (SUNA) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani stated that Sudan asked Chadi President Goukouni Oueddei to form a joint Chadi-Sudano committee assigned to solve all problems of borders between the two countries.

Mirghani said that Sudan's demand came after President Goukouni asked Libyan troops to evacuate Chadi territories.

He proclaimed that Sudan asked the current chairman of OAU to assign a part of the pan-African peace-keeping force of Chad to patrol the Sudan, Chadi borders.

He reaffirmed that Sudan exerts efforts for restoring stability in Chad which would not prevail unless national reconciliation was achieved and a just, free and democratic elections took place.

He concluded that Sudan does not support any partner of Chadi dispute but it will boost the one who Chadi people selects.

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES NEW CABINET, SOCIALIST UNION

JN281619 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA) -- President Numayri today addressed the joint session of the newly formed Cabinet and the Socialist Union Politburo. The president asserted there is a wide scope for serving the nation and that honorable work in all fields and at all levels has the same value and importance. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation for all those officials who have shouldered their responsibilities for some time and who have made efforts and contributions in accordance with their ability. He also said that the needs for change do not mean that there were shortcomings in all fields and cannot be justified in all cases by a lack of skill or by bad performance.

President Numayri described the current stage as that of self-criticism in order to change an old and familiar line in which all the authority was confined to Khartoum instead of the entire Sudanese territory. He said after the ruler issues a decision he must not be prevented from following it up. He should not act alone and all information must be available to him before making his decision. The responsibility for facing dissipation must not be confined to complaints so that the officials responsible for production cannot think that the way to face their problems is to shed useless tears. Efficiency in leadership does not mean monopolizing leadership. Public office is not a means of protecting officials. Good leadership means honest men who do not misuse their tongues. Leaders should not form cliques, elite as pleasure-seeking groups, or pretend to be wisemen.

Speaking about the requirements of the next phase, President Numayri called on all officials to shoulder their responsibilities and to play a vital role in all fields. He also called for integration among the political, legislative, executive and popular bodies to overcome the difficulties. He said his choice of his Cabinet members was based on the fact that he wanted them to be the revolutionary vanguards against dissipation, negligence and low production in all positions and fields.

President Numayri said the country is experiencing a pressing economic crisis. He said, however, that this crisis is not difficult to solve because the causes are obvious and are mainly due to the instability between what we import, mainly oil, and what we export, such as agricultural products. There is a decrease in exports and an increase in imports. He said we have no choice but to double our efforts to increase production. We should encourage labor, propose means to increase our exports and to reduce imports.

President Numayri asserted that the new Cabinet is a link in reorganizing the government's departments to realize the principle of decentralization. He referred to reducing the number of ministries from 18 to 13 and to reducing portfolios from 44 to 33 as a result of the establishment of the regional governments. The number of military attaches abroad has been reduced by seven, consulates abroad have also been reduced by seven and some embassies have been closed. The president said the reduction in government expenditure will not affect production and basic services to citizens. Production will be raised to satisfy the local market and to export the surplus. Dissipation and waste must end. All negligent persons will be punished. The president called for adhering to and implementing this program.

BRIEFS

FRG CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT -- Gen Jurgen Brandt, chief of staff of the FRG Armed Forces, left Khartoum for home yesterday morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Sudan, during which he paid several field visits to Sudanese units. He also presented the Armed Forces Medical Corps with some modern medical equipment and medicines as a gift from the FRG Government [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 28 Nov 81 JN]

NEW OIL DISCOVERIES -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has stressed that the amount of Sudan's oil discoveries is greater than its needs. He said we are at the beginning of the road but there are confirmed discoveries in south Kordofan and in the southern area of Upper Nile Province. There is also a start on [word indistinct] between Dunqulah and Omdurman. The White Nile Petroleum Company is undertaking studies for the design and organization of the Kosti refinery and pipeline. When studies are complete the actual exploitation of oil in Sudan will begin. [Text] [Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Nov 81 EA]

WESTERN SAHARA

NEWSMEN SAY POLISARIO CONTROLS MOROCCAN TOWNS

OW272108 Paris AFP in English 2006 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Bir Enzaran Western Sahara 27 Nov (AFP) -- Polisario Front forces have taken control of an important Moroccan military base here and that of Guelta Zemmur following a pull-back by Rabat's forces, a group of newsmen found this week.

Guelta Zemmur, scene in mid-October of violent fighting between Moroccans and Saharans, has been totally destroyed -- the military base installations were dynamited by the retreating Moroccans on November 9, the newsmen were told.

According to the Polisario, which is fighting for the independence of the former Spanish Sahara, annexed by Rabat, the Moroccans prior to departing also poisoned Guelta Zemmur's water supplies.

Newsmen watched Saharan sappers defusing landmines in the area and were told that the Moroccan Army had placed 30,000 anti-personnel or anti-tank land mines there. Of these, as many as 3,000 had already been defused, an official said. The operation is proceeding fast, he added, because in the course of the last battle in October, the Saharans laid hands on a Moroccan chart showing all the places where the mines had been laid.

The Saharans claim the "complete annihilation" of the Fourth Moroccan Regiment defending Guelta Zemmur base, the destruction of four enemy airplanes including one C-130 transport plane and a Puma helicopter, and the capture of 240 prisoners.

In Bir Enzaran, the Moroccan forces seem to have left in a great hurry. Most of the buildings formerly occupied by the Moroccan civilian and military administrations, including the military headquarters, have remained intact. Only the most vital installations, such as the well and electricity generators, have been destroyed.

Guelta Zemmur is located on the route linking (Bir-Moghrein) in Mauritania to phosphate-rich (Bu-Craa) and the port of (El-Ayun) in the north of the Western Sahara. It is the crossroads of half a dozen trails through the desert and can be used to bar access to the Saharan Atlantic coast. It also controls a route linking Algeria and Senegal, the north-west Sahara and Mauritania. As for Bir Enzaran, highest point on the Tirris Plateau, it controls the approaches to the port of Dakhla, the former Villa Cisneros, from the northeast some 100 km (600 miles) away.

According to a Saharan military spokesman, Morocco's control in the Western Sahara following its evacuation of the two bases in this area is now limited to Dakhla, the town of (Bujdor) and the triangular area circumscribed by the phosphate mining center of (Bu-Craa), the religious capital of Smara and the administrative capital, (El-Ayun).

ETHIOPIA

OAU, UN ASKED FOR SUPPORT AGAINST U.S. ACTIONS

EA261908 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 26 Nov 81

[Text] Comrade Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis has called on international organizations -- the OAU, the UN, the Nonaligned Movement and the League of Arab States -- to support the efforts being made to eliminate imperialist threats to global peace and security. Comrade Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and member of the commission for organizing the party of the workers of Ethiopia Central Committee, made the call to the four international organizations in messages he sent them recently. In his messages, the comrade minister said the greatly increasing acts of provocation by U.S.-led international imperialism in our region have been sources of grave concern for the peoples and governments of Ethiopia, the PDRY and Libya.

Comrade Dr Felleke, in his capacity of chairman of the Addis Ababa session of the political committee of Ethiopia, the PDRY and Libya, sent the messages to Edem Kodjo, secretary of the OAU; Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations; Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, foreign minister of Cuba and current chairman of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement; and Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League.

In his messages, Comrade Dr Felleke said the provocative and adventurist moves of international imperialism, with the United States at its head, are in line with its objectives to assert its superiority over the countries in the region and to put their peoples and natural resources under its control. Comrade Dr Felleke said the ongoing military exercises jeopardize world peace and security in general, and the efforts of the countries in the region for national development in particular.

In his messages, Comrade Dr Felleke called on the four organizations to inform their member countries that this matter is a source of concern to the peoples and governments of Ethiopia, the PDRY and Libya, and to take the necessary steps to eliminate the threat.

'SPOKESMAN' CONDEMNS SEYCHELLES COUP BID

EA272020 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Socialist Ethiopia has strongly condemned the mercenary troops attempted aggression on the Republic of the Seychelles, describing it as a conspiracy by imperialists and racists aimed at toppling legitimate, progressive governments which are strongly opposed to the domination of the forces of exploitation and oppression. A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of socialist Ethiopia has said that the aggression attempted yesterday by mercenary troops organized by imperialists and racists and by CIA agents against the Republic of the Seychelles was directed not only at the legitimate government of the Seychelles but also the peoples of Africa and world peace and security.

The spokesman said that the attempted aggression, in every aspect, was a continuation of the recent acts of aggression against Angola and Mozambique by (?similar) forces. He added that these forces have posed a threat to legitimate governments in the region by conducting various military exercises and committing acts of provocation. The spokesman called on the international community to condemn this act and give all necessary support and help to the people of the Republic of the Seychelles.

AFP: AIRLINE DENIES REPORT ON CHINESE STOWAWAYS

NC271718 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 27 Nov 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 27 Nov (AFP) -- Ethiopian airlines sources here today denied any knowledge of two Chinese reported to have fled Beijing as stowaways aboard one of the company's air planes.

Unconfirmed reports from Beijing said Thursday that two Chinese nationals had fled there hidden in a case aboard an Ethiopian airlines plane.

Airline sources here said no Chinese had landed in Addis Ababa or even flown as stowaways "to our knowledge."

The report said the stowaways were discovered during a stopover in Bombay and continued their flight in the passenger cabin to Addis Ababa.

There was no indication of the date of their departure.

AFP: ERITREAN FRONT TO FREE 3,000 PRISONERS

NC291711 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 29 Nov 81

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Nov (AFP) -- Guerrillas fighting for Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia said today that they will free 3,000 Ethiopian troops captured in various battles against the forces of the government in Addis Ababa.

In a statement issued here, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said its political bureau decided at a meeting on November 14 and 15 to release the prisoners for humanitarian reasons. The statement said the EPLF had contacted the International Red Cross in Geneva to facilitate the release of the prisoners and that the organization had promised to contact the Sudanese Government to provide refuge for them.

According to an EPLF official, the prisoners would not be sent directly back to Ethiopia because the Ethiopian Government denied that any [of] its troops were being held by the guerrillas. In the past, prisoners who returned to their home towns or villages were shot dead or forced back to the battlefield by the Ethiopian Government, the official said.

He also said that the figure of 3,000 did not include soldiers taken prisoner in recent fighting in the Baraka region, in northwestern Eritrea. According to the statement, the EPLF has released more than 3,000 Ethiopian troops during the past four years. The statement called upon world opinion to condemn "atrocities" perpetrated by what it described as the "fascistic" dergue (the Ethiopian regime of head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam).

It also called on Amnesty International and other humanitarian organizations to look into "inhuman treatment" of the Eritrean people. A struggle for Eritrea's independence has been taking place for some 20 years, since the previously autonomous province was incorporated with Ethiopia in 1962.

BURUNDI

BAGAZA PROMULGATES NEWLY APPROVED CONSTITUTION

AB221145 Paris AFP in French 1534 GMT 21 Nov 81

[Text] Bujumbura, 21 Nov (AFP) -- The president of the Republic of Burundi, Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, on Saturday signed the document promulgating the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi after the chief justice's proclamation of the final results of last Wednesday's referendum.

A total of 98.6 percent of the entire voting population approved the proposed Constitution which establishes the Union for National Progress as the sole party and provides for free elections for parliament and president. According to the chief justice, the results are:

Registered voters:	1,702,522	
Votes cast:	1,604,722	(about 94.25 percent)
Votes in favor:	1,582,244	(about 98.6 percent)
Votes against:	11,539	
Blank ballots:	10,939	

In a message to the nation, Colonel Bagaza noted that the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi was the last stage in the process of strengthening democracy.

The Burundian president said that the various bodies of the government will henceforth act in conformity to this Constitution. President Bagaza added that Burundians should watch all the same so that troublemakers do not destroy the structure that we have patiently built.

CAMEROON

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON AHIDJO VISIT TO MALABO

AB262047 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 26 Nov 81

[Text] President Ahmadou Ahidjo returned to Yaounde this afternoon after his 3-day official visit to Equitorial-Guinea at the invitation of President Obiang Nguema Mbazongo. Following this visit, seven new accords were signed between Cameroon and Equitorial Guinea. In a final communique signed in Malabo today before President Ahidjo returned home, Cameroon and Equitorial Guinea pledged to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry and forestry.

On the African scene, President Ahidjo and Obiang Nguema Mbazongo stressed the need to strengthen cooperation among the countries of Africa in general and of central African in particular. They expressed hope that African states would positively respond to the Chadian Government's call for aid in reconstructing its country. The two heads of state further called on the Western contact group to put pressure on South Africa for early independence for Namibia. Finally, Presidents Ahidjo and Obiang Mbazongo reaffirmed their support for the struggle for a majority government in South Africa.

On the international scene, the two countries reaffirmed their attachment to the principles of nonalignment and the need to promote relations of cooperation between industralized and developing countries, in short, a new international economic order which is more just and fair.

CHAD

FRENCH OFFICIAL DELIVERS MITTERRAND MESSAGE

AB301308 Paris AFP in French 1151 GMT 30 Nov 81

[By AFP special correspondent Jean-Paul Rodrigue]

[Text] Ndjamena, 30 Nov (AFP) -- Guy Penne, President Francois Mitterrand's adviser on African affairs, paid a 24-hours visit to Ndjamena where he delivered a message from the French head of state ot President Goukouni Oueddei, it was officially learned on Monday from the Chadian capital.

Arriving from Niamey Sunday morning aboard a plane placed at his disposal by Niger President Seyni Kountche, the French envoy flew back aboard a Mystere 20 plane of Glam [as received] for Nairobi. He is bearing another message from President Mitterrand to Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, current chairman of the OAU.

In Ndjamena, Mr Penne had a 3-hour discussion with President Goukouni Oueddei, in the presence of Vice President Abdel Kader Kamougue. Mr Penne reaffirmed France's support for the Transitional National Union Government of Chad, authoritative Chadian sources indicate.

The same source specified that the discussions were largely devoted to political issues, to the logistical aid France has decided to give the inter-African peacekeeping forces and the role it intends to play in the training of the troops of the Chadian National Integrated Army (ANI).

French diplomatic sources stressed that Paris wants to avoid a direct military involvement in Chad and that there is no question of sending military instructors or technicians there. The same sources add that President Goukouni again expressed doubt about the future efficacy of the neutral force but he did not, as he did in Nairobi, mention the possibility of recalling the Libyan forces to Chad.

The same sources finally indicated that French military equipment meant for the Senegalese contingents of the neutral force is about to be dispatched by civilian plane to Chad via Douala Cameroon.

FACTION OR ORGANIZE AGAINST U.S.-FRENCH THREAT

AB011125 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Lagos, 1 Dec (AFP) -- Chadian faction, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Chad (MPLT), is to organize politically and militarily against the threat of France-American imperialism in the country, MPLT leader Aboubakar Mahamat Abderahman said today.

He criticised Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei for demanding the withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad, and said the inter-African forces replacing the Libyans were useless, serving only to bolster Mr Goukouni.

We are a neutral faction and we have nothing to do with Goukouni Oueddei, Mr. Abderahman said. (The MPLT representative left Mr Goukouni's Transitional Government of National Unity in a reshuffle last July.

The MPLT leader said that part of his group, which was traditionally benefitted from Nigerian support, backed rebel former Defence Minister Hissein Habre for a period when he himself was being held prisoner by Mr Habre's FAN, and later by Mr Goukouni's followers, from July 1980 until last August.

Since his release the MPLT had begun to reunify, Mr Abderahman said.

NIGERIA SUPPLIES PLANE FOR MISSIONS IN INTERIOR

AB301228 Paris AFP in French 1151 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 30 Nov (AFP) -- The Nigerian Government has placed a Fokker-27 and its crew at the disposal of Chadian authorities to enable them undertake missions in the interior of Chad, it is learned from a Nigerian diplomatic source in Ndjamena. The aircraft was seen at the Ndjamena civilian airport at noon on Sunday. It was taking about 30 heavily armed members of the military police to an undisclosed destination.

Nigeria, neighboring Chad, will supply about 2,000 soldiers within the framework of the inter-African peacekeeping force.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER ON PEACE FORCE, FAN

AB301332 Paris AFP in French 1127 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Paris, 30 Nov (AFP) -- The inter-African peacekeeping force should be set up quickly in Chad so that the government of Ndjamena can concentrate on the reconstruction of [words indistinct], Chadian State Minister of Rural Development Naimbaye Lossiman said.

In an interview with AFP, Naimbaye, who is passing through Paris, severely criticized Hissein Habre's FAN, which has taken the initiative in new fighting in the eastern part of the country. Henceforth, he said, the word FAN, if it still exists at all, will be synonymous with division, massacre, sorrow, regional and religious discrimination.

After recalling that a certain number of Chadian exiles including the FAN have been granted amnesty up to 31 December 1981, with the exception of FAN leaders Hissein Habre, Idriss Miskine and Michel Froud, Naimbaye did not rule out the possibility that some day these people could be granted amnesty.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW TO DISCUSS EMBASSY

AB231345 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Text] This morning, [name indistinct], the inspector of the External Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by [name indistinct] left for Moscow to discuss the opening of our embassy with the authorities of the Soviet Union with which Equatorial Guinea maintains good, friendly relations.

GABON

PRIME MINISTER MAKES 'SLIGHT CABINET RESHUFFLE'

AB231017 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Excerpts] The week just ended was marked by two political events: The first was the slight modification of the government headed by Leon Mebiame and the second was the important Cabinet meeting which was also attended by the chairmen of the corporate bodies and the members of the Political Bureau of the Gabonese Democratic Party.

Concerning the slight Cabinet reshuffle, two ministers were appointed ministers of state, one secretary of state was promoted to the rank of minister and some ministers exchanged portfolios. The following appointments were made:

Minister of state for commerce, industrial development and the promotion of small and medium scale enterprises	Etienne Moussirou
Minister of state for territorial administration and local collectivities	Richard Nguema Bekale
Minister secretary general of the government	Isaac Nguema
Minister delegate to the prime minister	Dominique Boungouere
Minister of national education	Louis Gaston Mayila
Minister of youth, sports and leisure	Jean-Baptiste Ngomo Obiang
Secretary of state to the national education minister	Prof Paulin Obame Nguema

The president and head of state also issued a decree appointing a number of ministerial representatives.

RWANDA

GREAT LAKES COUNTRIES POSTPONE PLANNED SUMMIT

AB281025 Paris AFP in English 1010 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Kigali, 28 Nov (AFP) -- A two-day meeting of the presidents of Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi, due to begin today, has been postponed at the request of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, diplomatic sources said here today. Negotiations are underway to fix a new date for the summit conference of the Tripartite Great Lakes Economic Community (CEPGL), probably in the second week of January, the sources said.

The weekend meeting was to have been held at Gisenyi, Rwanda. The meeting coincides with a planned trip to the United States by President Mobutu.

NIGERIA

OIL OFFICIAL SAYS COUNTRY TO STAY OPEC MEMBER

AB302130 Paris AFP in English 1659 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Lagos, 30 Nov (AFP) -- Rumours of a possible break-up of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were strongly denied here today by the Nigerian presidential adviser on oil affairs, Alhaji Yahaya Dikko.

Mr Dikko told an oil industry seminar that OPEC unity was intact, and that he believed the current price structure had introduced stability and would remain unchanged throughout next year. He stressed that Nigeria had no present intention of leaving OPEC.

Nigeria's best interests are served by action within the context of the organisation and we will so act until we are convinced otherwise. Once again, rumours that we can be so convinced are greatly exaggerated, he said.

Mr Dikko discounted self-serving suggestions that oil demand next year might be lower than expected. He said oil, which accounted for about 85 per cent of Nigeria's revenue, would be with us for a long time to come, and that continued production was worthwhile if only because of Nigeria's growing internal consumption.

Mr Dikko told the seminar, financed by the French oil company ELF-Aquitaine and ELF-Nigeria, that the Nigerian Government wanted to see a big increase in oil exploration.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS TAKES CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE

AB302036 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] President Siaka Stevens has taken over the portfolio of finance with immediate effect, while Dr Sama Banya continues to be in charge of the Ministry of Development and Economic Planning.

UPPER VOLTA

UPPER VOLTA, MALI 21 NOV JOINT COMMUNIQUE

AB221419 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 Nov 81

[Final communique issued in Ouagadougou on 21 November after the visit to Upper Volta by Malian President Moussa Traore on 20 and 21 November -- read by Malian Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye]

[Text] His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union [UDPM] and president of the republic, went on a working and friendly visit to Upper Volta on 20 and 21 November 1981. During their deliberations, extended to include their close associates, the two heads of state made speeches in which they defined the framework of the meeting.

In welcoming his guest, the Upper Voltan head of state stressed the comprehensive ties, particularly the identical culture and economic constratints, that both countries have always shared as united entities. In this regard, the Upper Voltan head of state noted that the Malian and Upper Voltan peoples stand as martyrs to nature and history to a certain extent.

We are martyrs to nature because, to achieve social and economic development, we are obliged to engage in a struggle made hard by climatic hardships. The periodic drought, which is a natural factor, is a calamity our people are not ready to forget. We are martyrs to history because we both share a colonial inheritance which is rarely satisfying. Our two states sometimes face problems which they have not caused and which are sometimes likely to constitute an international diversionary move, handicapping our full development. The Upper Voltan leader also stressed that Malians and Upper Voltans equally need peace and tranquillity, the prerequisite for their economic and social development. This is why President Zerbo stated that the present meeting must aim both at promoting mutual trust among our respective peoples and at strengthening our bilateral cooperation in the face of the great task of national construction which their leaders are to carry out.

In conclusion, President Saye Zerbo said Malians and Upper Voltans must not allow themselves to be diverted by any unnecessary problems. On the contrary, they must join efforts to combat their common enemy which is underdevelopment and its related hardships, and this must be done in peace, concord, frankness and friendship.

In his reply, the Malian head of state first expressed satisfaction with the warm, enthusiastic welcome, which he said, was the mark of the long-standing relations between the two peoples. Stressing the significance of this meeting, which is their second in 2 months, he said he hopes it will be an essential landmark in the efforts to strengthen our brotherly and friendly relations -- thanks to frank, direct consultations. The Malian president added that in making this working, friendly visit to the sister Republic of Upper Volta, he wanted to show the unfailing determination of the Malian people, their party and government to work toward the consolidation of diversified relations between the two countries.

In conclusion, the Malian head of state said that Upper Volta and Mali, which have always maintained an accurate awareness of their complementariness and the real desire of their people to live in full harmony, will find ways of removing all obstacles likely to hinder this historic truth.

Following the meeting, the two heads of state held private talks which took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood, friendship and mutual understanding. During their talks, they thoroughly examined all issues of cooperation between their countries. In this connection, they committed themselves to materialize the good relations existing between the two states through concrete actions.

After examining the subregional situation, they expressed satisfaction over the good cooperation existing among the regional and subregional organizations such as the (Liftakou Gourma), the West African Economic Community, the inter-State committee to fight drought in the Sahel and ECOWAS. They pledged to work toward extending and strengthening cooperation.

On African issues, the two leaders reiterated their firm attachment to the ideals and principles of the OAU Charter. With regard to the situation in Chad, they expressed hopes that the steps being taken by the OAU on the basis of the last Nairobi summit and the Lagos accord conferring international legitimacy and legality on President Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government would lead to a settlement safeguarding that brotherly country's national unity and territorial integrity.

With regard to the situation in northwest Africa, both leaders welcomed the recommendations of the OAU implementation committee on Western Sahara, set up in June in Nairobi. They expressed their conviction that only a free, fair and general self-determination referendum under OAU and UN auspices will make it possible to establish fair and lasting peace in the region.

With regard to southern Africa, the two leaders reiterated their strong condemnation of South Africa's minority racist regime. They reiterated their full support for the Namibian people struggling under SWAPO's perspicacious leadership for their independence and sovereignty.

They also reiterated their firm support for the frontline states, particularly Mozambique and Angola, who have repeatedly suffered South African aggression.

With regard to the Middle East, the two leaders expressed their concern over the tension prevailing in that region. In this regard, they expressed their unfailing support for the Palestinian people fighting under the PLO, their authentic representative. In this connection, the two leaders stressed that a fair and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict will only be achieved after Israel has pulled out totally and unconditionally from the occupied Arab territories and after the Palestinian people have recovered their national rights, particularly their right to establish an independent state.

Lastly, the two heads of state pledged their unfailing adherence to the principles of nonalignment, aimed at making it possible for Third World countries to consolidate their independence and to contribute their positive efforts toward maintaining world peace and establishing a more just world economic order.

At the end of his visit to Upper Volta, President Moussa Traore expressed his wholehearted gratitude to his brother and friend President Saye Zerbo, to the CMRPN, to the Upper Voltan Government and people for the African hospitality reserved him and his delegation during their stay.

Present at the working session were: On the Malian side: His Excellency Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; His Excellency Lt Col Sory Ibrahim Sylla, minister of the interior; His Excellency Noumou Diakite, Malian ambassador to Upper Volta; Ahmadi Diallo, technical adviser in the presidency; Moribou Diarra, press attache in the presidency; (Ahoutan Nyi Kasambara), permanent secretary in the Interior Ministry; Mamadou Maiga, technical adviser in the Interior Ministry; and Djadji Traore, director general of Mali's cartography and topography service.

On the Upper Voltan side were: His Excellency Paul Nikiema, president of the Supreme Court; His Excellency Felix Tientarboum, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; His Excellency Badembie Nezien, minister of interior and security; Souleyman Diallo, secretary general in the Ministry of Interior and Security; (Fie Bernard Fie), charged with mission in the presidency; Ferdinand Nikiema, director of political affairs in the Ministry of Interior and Security; Kouka Ousmane Tagbi Nibi, director general of Upper Volta's Geographic Institute, Moustafa Traore, adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Marc Kibora Tima, official from Upper Volta's Geographic Institute.

Issued in Ouagadougou on 21 November 1981 and [signed] for Mali by Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM and president of the republic, and for Upper Volta by Col Saye Zerbo, CMRPN chairman and head of state.

ANGOLA

PETROLEUM MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON REFINERY FIRE

EA011126 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Once again international imperialism has tried to deal a blow against our young republic, using the means that reaction has put at its disposal, in a vain attempt to liquidate our revolution. This time, it tried to destroy the Luanda refinery, using in this attempt foreign mercenaries with explosives, who infiltrated into our country.

In the near future, the competent authorities will issue a communique on the result of their investigations into this further heinous action by our enemies.

In the meantime, as there is a rush by residents to the gasoline stations in Luanda, it is our duty to inform residents that the normal supply of fuel and gas is completely assured. There is no scarcity of products in the storage depots and distributing enterprises. Supply of fuel for vehicles will continue as usual and there is no need to form lines. For understandable reasons and for the security of people and residences, the ministry wants to prohibit the filling and emptying of fuel [words indistinct], tins, big bottles, small drums, except for kerosene.

In the meantime and as reaction shows no intention of disarming, it has become imperative to take rigorous steps to maintain vigilance. Accordingly, any attempt at unruly behavior at gasoline stations will be promptly suppressed by the forces of order and security. The ministry counts on the understanding and good faith of our people for the implementation of the decisions made.

The attempt to paralyze the economic life of our country and the advance of the revolution as it marches toward national reconstruction has once again failed.

We wish to inform you that measures are being taken to quickly normalize the functioning of the Luanda refinery.

[Signed] Ministry of Petroleum

ANGOLA, LIBYA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

AB301224 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] Angola and Libya in Luanda on Saturday signed two agreements on cooperation in the fields of fishing and agriculture. The agreements were signed by Ismael Martins, the Angolan minister of finance, and Musa Abu Furaywah, Libyan minister of planning, at the end of talks which began in Luanda last Tuesday.

During the talks, the two parties discussed the possibility of extending cooperation in the fields of petroleum, heavy industry, mining and culture.

BRIEFS

SOVIET FISHING DELEGATION -- A Soviet delegation led by Yuriy Bystrov, deputy minister of fish industry, arrived in Luanda on 25 November on a 13-day visit at the invitation of the Angolan Fishing Ministry. The Soviet delegation leader stated on arrival that the visit to Angola falls within the context of preparing for the next session of the Angola-USSR joint commission on fishing as well as of strengthening and consolidating the cooperation between the two countries. [Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 0940 GMT Nov 81 AB]